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JPRS-NEA-85-057

22 April 1985

Near East/South Asia Report

19980826 119

DTIC QUALITY INSPECTED 3

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A

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22 April 1985

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REGIONAL AFFAIRS

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS BY GERMAN FIRMS PLANNED

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ZEITUNG/BLICK DURCH DIE WIRTSCHAFT in German 8 Feb 85 p 2

[Article by W. An.: "Metropolitan Railway System in North Africa"]

[Text] Large-scale metropolitan railway projects are in the planning stage, under construction or have been partially completed in Cairo, Tripoli, Tunis, Algiers and Casablanca to meet the future demand in public transportation and remove the bottlenecks which already exist in urban transit. In Tunis, the first phase of construction has already been almost concluded; German companies are extensively involved in this project. In Cairo, where French companies received primary consideration, considerable progress has been made in spite of great difficulties. In Algiers, it is expected that contracts for the construction of a metropolitan railway system will be awarded in the near future. Metropolitan railway projects in Tripoli and Casablanca are still in the planning stage.

In Tunisia, a German-French consortium under the leadership of the Siemens AG, Munich/Berlin, signed a contract in 1980 for the construction of the first phase of a city and urban railway system (Metro Leger) in the capital of Tunis, which will reach a length of approximately 30 kilometers. Several Tunisian construction companies are also involved in the project, the completion of which is estimated to cost DM 300 million. Additional German partners who are working on this project are the Uerdigen AG, a railroad car manufacturer, the Duesseldorf Works (Duewag), and the Augsburg-Nuremberg Machine Factory, Inc (MAN), Augsburg. French participants are the following companies: Socader, Spie-Batignolles and Jeumont-Schneider.

The German companies jointly assumed the shipment of 78 eight-axle double-couple cars that are 30 meters long and 2.5 meters wide and which can seat 360 persons each. At the beginning of June 1983 the first four cars were shipped to Tunis. The Siemens AG is not only supplying the electrotechnical equipment for the 42-ton metropolitan railway cars but also cable systems and rectifier stations. During the third quarter of 1984 the Siemens AG booked additional orders.

The Societe Nationale des Transports (SNT), Tunis, is in charge of the project. At the end of 1981 it founded the subsidiary of Societe du Metro Leger de

Tunis (SMLT) for the construction and operation of the new city and suburban railway system. In mid-December 1980 the FRG granted DM 90 million in capital loans for a partial financing of the project. In addition, DM 160 million were made available for financing exports. The German Railway Consulting GmbH (DEC), Frankfurt.

Not long ago Egypt announced that the first line of the metropolitan railway system in Cairo will probably be completed during the first half of 1987. It will cover a distance of 42 kilometers, extending from El Marg in the north of the capital to Helwan in the south and be able to transport 215 million passengers daily. The principal part of the new project is the underground section which stretches over a distance of 4,500 meters in the center of Cairo. By the end of October 1984, 1,186 meters of the tunnel section had been completed. It provides a connection between two aboveground routes which are already in existence. The contract for the construction of the underground section, which was begun in November 1981, was awarded to the Consortium Interinfra-Arabco. It consists of 17 French companies under the leadership of the Societe General d'Enterprises pour les Travaux Publics et Industriels (SGETPI) [General Consortium of Enterprises for Public Works and Industry], Rungis, and two Egyptian enterprises.

The consulting firm which was contracted for the subway project was the French Societe Francaise d'Etudes et de Realisations de Transports Urbains (Sofretu) [French Company for the Study and Realization of Urban Transportation], a subsidiary of the Regie Autonome des Transports Parisiens (RATP), Paris, together with the domestic firm of Arab Consulting Engineers, the cost of which was estimated at approximately \$240 million; now, however, it is considerably higher. Five subway stations are in the process of being built. They are: Ramses Square, Orabi, 26 July Street, El Tahrir and Ismail Abaza. Sections that already exist are being modernized at considerable expense. Following the completion of this first metropolitan railway line (Suburban Line), two additional, completely new lines (city lines) are to be built. They are to connect Shoubra al Kheima with Bulak El Dakrour and Embaba with Salah Salem. In charge of the entire metropolitan railway project is the National Authority for Tunnels (NAT), which was founded in 1981 by the Egyptian National Railways.

In Algeria, a new state enterprises was founded in the fall of 1984 to carry out the metropolitan railway project in the capital of Algiers. It is called Entreprise Nationale de Metro (ENM). Previously the Societe Nationale de Transports Ferroviaires (SNTF), the national Algerian railway company, was in charge of this project. An international bidding process was announced in the spring of 1984 covering seven sections of the first metropolitan railway line with a total length of 12 kilometers, extending from Qued Korine in the north to Badjara. It is to have 17 stations. The French Sofretu mentioned above will provide engineering consultations. Later, an additional line is to be built, running more or less parallel to the first one but leading slightly more inland, and a second one between Husein Dey and Birkadem. As a result, the entire network will reach a length of approximately 67 kilometers.

In Morocco, plans have begun for the construction of a metropolitan railway system for the greater Casablanca area. It is in the hands of the Regie Autonome des Transports en Commun de Casablanca (RATC), which is in charge of transportation systems in the Moroccan economic metropolis. In Libya, the Hungarian state enterprise Uvater received the contract of planning a metropolitan railway network for the capital of Tripoli. It is supposed to be about 70 kilometers long, 20 kilometers of which will be underground. For Uvater the value of the order will amount to \$28 million.

8991

CSO: 4620/25

ALGERIA

ROLE OF DEVELOPMENT BANK DISCUSSED

Algiers REVOLUTION AFRICAINE in French 1-7 Mar 85 pp 14-16

[Article by Abou-Bakr Talbi: "The Algerian Development Bank: Maturity"]

[Text] Among the large family of financial and banking institutions in our country, one is undoubtedly the least known by the man in the street. And for good reasons! No citizen goes there to cash his paycheck, much less to deposit his savings or make a loan!

Yet, this is one of the major Algerian financial and banking institutions if we consider its resources and, above all, the mission assigned to it by the government with respect to the implementation of the nation's various economic plans.

The Algerian Development Bank [BAD] was not created yesterday. It is nearly 20 years old. In other words, it is a mature institution!

Initially known as the Algerian Development Fund, the CAD, it had the difficult task of contributing to establish and set in motion the country's economy which, at the time, was totally without means and reduced to its simplest expression.

In its history, we can note--much to its credit--its active participation in the creation of large national companies, i.e. the material base of our present economy, whose restructuring has generated many companies.

Yet, it became a full-fledged development bank only with the reform in the financing of the planned investments of public companies, which was introduced by the 1971 Finance Law.

Actually, the latter represented a clear line of demarcation with the preceding period, bringing innovation to the investment-financing system; from then on, overall financing for productive projects had to be provided through loans.

The economic agents in charge of completing and implementing planned investments will in principle go through the same stages as any other public project. A difficult role which, therefore, extends from the conception of the project to its actual completion and, eventually, its startup.

A Difficult Decision

In practice, the project will undergo successive stages of evaluation, registration on the financing plan list and, finally, signature of contracts. This translates into facts the centralization of investment decisions and, therefore, gives the State a stronger grip on the controls of the economy.

Thus, since the first four-year plan was started, considerable efforts were made to achieve, on the one hand, greater integration of the financing system and, on the other hand, consistent coordination between the development plan and the country's financial policy. In other words: to subordinate the financial policy to the plan objectives. A difficult decision that will not fail to upset the traditional banker's mentality!

In this context, the BAD is entrusted with the distribution of the funds earmarked to finance the projects scheduled under the plan. Relying primarily on the country's own resources and, of course, on foreign loans, which must be restricted to the "indispensable minimum," appears to be the golden rule of the Algerian planner and his specific leitmotif!

To achieve this, the BAD, due to its responsibilities and its position, enjoys broad prerogatives to mobilize internal resources, most of which consist in standby credits from the treasury (the State's coffers). No wonder then, that this is the only national bank to grant exclusively long-term repayable loans, from 10 to 20 years, depending on the sectors, not to mention possible deferments of up to 4 years. (Note that housing, agriculture and small or medium-size industries in governorates and communities are not covered by the BAD).

Actually, through force of circumstances, it has even become specialized in this type of loans, progressively giving up intermediate-term loans on which primary banks now have a near monopoly, while still issuing like them foreign loans to companies.

At the start, and this is quite understandable, the objective is to drain available resources and distribute them among all investments, according to criteria that will maximize the effectiveness of existing means. The principle underlying this approach is that national companies must make a profit which contributes to the national surplus. The latter is in turn redistributed among the various sectors of activity, as a function of their respective needs and of current priorities. This, among other things, is one reason that made it possible to keep the question of self-financing in the background until now.

In the field, experience shows that the official course to be followed by any planned investment is not an easy one and, therefore, not always followed by public operators. For a variety of reasons...

For instance, a manager first obtains a contract at favorable conditions, retains it in principle but waits until later to start the registration procedure with the Ministry of Plan to add the project to the investments list. That is putting the cart before the horses, the planner would answer, for

in that case the selection and characteristics of the project are quite simply imposed upon the planning organ.

Administrative Procedures...

Conversely, if that manager proceeds according to regulations, the deficiencies prevailing at the level of technical and economic study (especially concerning inadequate estimates of the real project cost) do not allow for a good evaluation of the project by the planning organs. Later on, individualization and financing decisions¹ will prove poorly adapted, as negotiations preceding the signature of contracts often lead to extensive changes in the project characteristics and in the plan decision.

Obviously, any change will require a revision of the structure of investment financing. And precisely the BAD, which at this stage is in charge of preparing financing plans, sees itself continually "hustled."²

The financing plan sets financing terms for the investment, based on the project characteristics; in particular with respect to financing methods, structure (long and intermediate term, foreign loan, etc.), loan repayment period and deferments.

Thus, the adoption of a financing plan appears to be a most crucial stage which should be given the required attention, since it will actually determine how the investments will be financed.

However, the BAD's task is not always easy. First, due to the lack, or even the inexistence of accurate financial data concerning the applicant company or adequate data to determine financing conditions. Indeed, when the project was initiated, the manager's sole objective being to obtain a financing decision, the financial balance of the project was not his major concern.

In addition, the prevailing mentality among public operators appears to be that the financing of a project is, after all, only an administrative procedure after registration with the plan (another administrative procedure!). Later on, the Bank's traditional role is mainly to check that the contracts signed by the companies and their partners comply with what has been approved by the Ministry of Plan, and to ensure that the overall amounts granted in the program authorization are not exceeded.

1. The financing decision made by the Ministry of Finance amounts to an official order to execute the financing plan adopted by the BAD technical directorate. As for the individualization decision, it formalizes the official registration of the project on the list of planned investments of the Ministry of Plan.
2. Thus, close to 1,800 new projects were processed by the BAD and approved by its directorate during the past 5 years. And, if we were to look at all operations, taking into account structural changes, reevaluations, cancellations, etc., we would speak of over 2,700 operations.

This rather unorthodox approach of the BAD, which is restricted to control alone, is therefore essentially aimed at ensuring compliance with administrative rules and not, as it should be, at controlling the company's financial effectiveness as a prerequisite for setting the investment in motion.

Self-Financing: What About the Rules of the Game?

At this stage, the BAD--which, we should remember, is primarily a bank--is confronting a dilemma: to fulfill its commercial role *stricto sensu* and reason only in terms of investment security and yield, in which case we may consider that it can choose its debtors; or to focus only on the completion of development plans, at any cost! Reconciling these two situations is, you will admit, neither a sinecure nor an easy task!

Meanwhile, the major problem experienced by the BAD is currently far more related to the imprecision characteristic of its mission and, therefore, its attributions. Thus, paradoxically, the administrative control to which the BAD has restricted itself is not easily accepted by companies. Especially when it comes to repaying borrowed funds. "One cannot do the impossible," failing companies seem to be saying...

At the same time, the option of self-financing--which is very much encouraged to become the main method of financing productive investments--is covered by an uncertain legal framework.

The rules of the game that underlie self-financing are still not well defined and, as a result, are variously interpreted by the two sides, supervising administrations for instance, and companies and banks as a whole.

Self-financing, its mechanisms, the procedures leading to it, its organization under the annual plan, these are as many questions calling for more concrete answers.

Identity Card of the Algerian Development Bank

- Creation: Law 63-165 of 7 May 1963 (under the name Algerian Development Fund) modified by Order 71-47 of 30 June 1971.
- Organization: Headquarters in Algiers; four regional directorates in Constantine, Algiers, Oran and Annaba.
- Main Activities:
 - preparation of financing plans;
 - financing through long-term loans;
 - financial monitoring of projects with respect to commitments and payments;
 - foreign financing;
 - management of certain operations covered by the equipment budget.

- Directorate of the BAD

It consists of:

- the BAD chief executive officer (president);
- a representative of the Ministry of Plan;
- a representative of the Ministry of Finances;
- a representative of the Central Bank;
- representatives of primary banks;
- representatives of the supervising ministry concerned by the agenda;
- the general manager of the company concerned.

The directorate will take all major decisions concerning the financing of planned investments and in particular the adoption of the financing plan.

- The BAD adopted the GSE [Socialist Management of Businesses] in 1975;
- Personnel (1984): 329 in all, including 113 cadres, 57 supervising agents and 159 implementation agents.

The BAD and the Private Sector

We said above that citizens had no relations with the BAD, but that is not quite correct. Actually, such a relation does exist: through private investment.

We must say that BAD has played and is still playing an important part in helping the State "gain control" over this sector. Thus, it contributes to establish orientation and follow-up structures for Algerian private investment. In this respect, it acted as secretary of the national approval commission until quite recently (November 1983) before being replaced by the OSCIP [expansion unknown].

At present, the BAD is especially "courted" by private investors, downstream from the OSCIP agreement, wishing to obtain the tax and financial benefits provided under the law.

The most important of these are the granting of credits (with a ceiling set at 30 percent of the investment), temporary tax exemptions and other tax reductions, etc.

To be more precise, we should mention: exemptions of taxes on industrial and commercial profits (BIC), exemption of the tax on industrial and commercial operations (TAIC), exemption of lump-sum payments (VF), for periods of one to five years. The ceiling is relevant mostly in disadvantaged areas and in sectors receiving special encouragement.

BAD and Restructuring

The financial restructuring of national companies is confronting the BAD with some problems. Indeed, the distribution of parent-companies' assets among daughter companies has not been completed yet and appears to be an especially

thorny task as far as its financial and legal aspects are concerned (and sometimes its human aspects, we should not forget that!).

Thus, the debts made by the former national companies with the BAD are now converted into definitive aids for their "offspring." This merely means that they are purely and simply cancelled.

By the end of 1984, 111 of the 115 financial restructuring decisions involved debt cancellation, representing a total of 13.7 billion dinars. The remaining restructuring decisions involved at best a rescheduling of long-term debts. In another respect, restructuring has resulted in the need for the BAD to decentralize its structures throughout the national territory (a decentralization project provides for the creation of several regional directorates, in addition to those that already exist). The objective is "to get closer to the restructured companies in order to improve the control of the investment function and to ensure that the maturation, evaluation and material and financial follow-up of the implementation of development programs takes place under the best possible conditions." Yet, the BAD had to pay a tribute in personnel, as its financial cadres joined the new companies issued from the restructuring. This is a drain from which the BAD will not recover that soon, considering that, in 1984, over 42 percent of its cadres were in various stages of their training (that rate was 21 percent in 1983). During the past two years, it experienced one of the highest rates of personnel mobility, with a number of departures exceeding that of recruitments.

9294

CSO: 4519/114

ALGERIA

CONSTRUCTION LAW EXPLAINED

Algiers REVOLUTION AFRICAINE in French 1-7 Mar 85 p 26

[Article: "Current Legislation"]

[Text] Current legislation on building consists of Law No 82-02 of 6 February 1982, covering development and building permits (it replaced Order No 75-67 of 26 September 1975) and its application decrees No 82-304 and 82-305 of 9 October 1982.

As far as this law is concerned, the essential legal document required to build is the building permit since "no public or private entity, whether a natural or an artificial person, can undertake construction of a building for any use whatsoever, or frontage or structural alterations, or build additional floors, unless a building permit has first been issued by the competent authority under the conditions decreed."

The building permit application must be filed with the president of the People's Communal Assembly of the territory involved, who will send an acknowledgment of its receipt and, within 8 days, transmit the application accompanied by his opinion to the DUCH [expansion unknown] for a technical opinion.

The building permit is issued by the president of the People's Communal Assembly for all residential buildings consisting of less than 400 housing units; by the governor for those consisting of more than 400 and less than 800 housing units; and by the Ministry of Urban Planning, Building and Housing for those exceeding 800 housing units. The building permit will be issued within 60 days maximum from the date of filing of the application; after this period, and if no answer has been sent, the applicant is deemed to have received a building permit, provided however that "urban planning and building regulations are complied with."

One more precision: presentation of the building permit is required to have buildings connected to the water-supply, power, gas and telephone networks.

The examination of the building permit application must include checking that its compliance with the agricultural-land preservation policy, the approved urban development plan (if there is one), building regulations (in particular respect of servitudes) and hygiene and safety regulations.

The building permit (like the development permit) is valid for three years from the date of notification; it will be deemed to have lapsed if construction of the building authorized has not started within these three years or if work has been interrupted for two years.

Compliance of the buildings with the specifications contained in the building permit granted will be checked. The authority that delivered the building permit will also deliver a certificate of compliance, if that is the case. Should a violation occur through "the execution of work or use of the land in violation of the provisions of this law and those of the regulations issued for its application," the offender will be punished by a fine of 3,000 to 300,000 Algerian dinars. The relevant jurisdiction will order either that the site or the constructions be made to comply with the building or development permit, or that the constructions be demolished or the land reassigned so that the site will be restored to its previous condition. In case of non-compliance with the court decision, the president of the People's Communal Assembly can as a matter of course proceed with the work required to ensure compliance, demolition or restoration, "at the contravener's expense and risks."

This law of 6 February 1982 concerning development and building permits complements a broader legislative setup including, among others, the 1971 order concerning the agrarian revolution and the order of 20 February 1974 organizing land reserves in favor of local communities.

The first order prohibits any land sale between private persons for building purposes, and any document containing such provisions is illegal. A citizen can own a building lot only as a result of land-lot sales by the People's Communal Assemblies. In this respect, any land located within the boundaries of a town constitutes a land reserve.

Outside town boundaries, no construction is authorized, except to cover family needs or in connection with rural work.

9294
COS: 4519/114

EGYPT

SLP LEADER RAPS GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURE PROPOSAL AS UN-ISLAMIC

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Feb 85 p 1

/Text/ Last week before the People's Assembly, Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, head of the Socialist Labor Party, opposed the decision by the president of the republic regarding the agreement on the second amendment to the draft bill on the American agreement to extend a grant for small farm production.

Several deputies of the National Party supported Eng Ibrahim Shukri's point of view.

The head of the Labour Party said, "The proposed agreement is said to be an American grant aimed at creating real growth in Egyptian agriculture, but we believe that the bill gives the farmers loans to cover their real needs regarding the various crops and agricultural activities. These are considered supplementary loans to the subsidized loans on items needed for agricultural production offered by the Egyptian Bank of Development and Agricultural Credit. This means that the bank gives the farmers a portion of what they need for these crops as cash loans or in kind, but it does not cover in full the true and necessary costs of these crops. As a result, farmers need other amounts to cover the rest of the costs, which in many instances affects production because of the lack of available financing."

Ibrahim Shukri added, "In view of that, the bill will cover the rest of the farmers' expenditures, on the basis that the farmer will first be given the subsidized loans for the items necessary for production according to the size of his holding and the type of crops, then the rest of his needs will be made up for by the bill's unsubsidized loans! Also, the bank will give development loans based on specific conditions for the farmers, which often cannot be met by small farmers, so they are not granted these loans! It is not reasonable that the agreement should guarantee that the small farmer will get loans at unsubsidized black market interest rates of 14 percent on the pretext of covering the farmers needs for loans!"

Engineer Ibrahim Shukri said, "These loans and interest rates offered by the banks constitute usury /riba/, and that is contrary to Islamic law. Why does the government accept that!?"

12547
CSO: 4504/242

22 April 1985

EGYPT

AL-AZHAR BLAMED FOR DELAY IN APPLICATION OF ISLAMIC LAW

Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 21 Feb 85 p 4

/Editorial by 'Abd-al-Mughni Sa'id/

/Text/ The application of Islamic law is not just a slogan used in sermons to rouse the emotions of the worshippers during Friday prayers, or to be used to outdo others in a speech before the People's Assembly to gain the support of the masses and to flaunt one's heroism. The application of Islamic law is greater and more serious than that by far, and it does not stop at imposing the application of penalties and the rules of marriage, divorce and inheritance, etc., as stipulated in the Holy Qur'an and the sayings of the Prophet, on him be prayers and peace. In addition to that, there are no clear provisions in the Book or the Sunnah regarding many of the systems, establishments, and procedures that we live under at the present time. Therefore, applying Islam to them means reviewing its basic and general principles and bringing them in line with these principles or bases.

Islam brought a comprehensive economic, political and social system, the application of which Islamic society as a complete whole must follow. It also brought a righteous way of life which every Muslim as an individual must follow. Therefore, application of Islamic law means essentially the application by the Islamic society of this comprehensive, integral system, and the application by Muslim individuals of this way of life in the various aspects of their daily lives. This system and this way of life can be applied to every society and in every age. That is because Islam, as the eternal message that crowned the development of heavenly messages, concentrates on the absolutes and the basics, and leaves the details and secondary items to be developed in accordance with changing circumstances. Thus, application is renewable without touching the basic principles of Islam. That is what is declared in the noble saying /hadith/, "At the start of every century, God sends one who renews the religion of this nation."

Commenting on the allegations by some that there is a tendency to dilute the process of applying Islamic law, I will say for the record for the sake of history and the truth, that these allegations have no basis, and I have participated in the work of the economic and finance committee, the most important of the committees formed by the People's Assembly to apply Islamic law. These committees completed their tasks before the end of the previous session of the

People's Assembly, their intensive studies having lasted more than 3 years. If we take the economic and finance committee as an example, we see that its membership included, in addition to many professors and experts in law, economics and public finance, a number of professors of jurisprudence specializing in comparative jurisprudence and in the four schools of Islamic jurisprudence: Hanafiyah, Shafi'iyah, Malikiyah, and Hanbaliyah. They included the honorable Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Mas'ud as a representative of the council of muftis at al-Azhar. The committee reviewed the laws of banks, insurance and companies, etc., and the extent to which they were in line with the basic principles of Islam. In light of this careful review, the committee submitted entire draft bills within its fields of specialization. Some of those I might mention are civil law, commercial law, maritime law, and laws on taxes, customs, and corporations. It also prepared a new draft bill on the alms tax /zakah/, and the system of collecting it and administering it as an independent fund apart from taxes and on its disposition, and measures regarding spending and receiving it. Meanwhile, the other committees completed a bill on criminal law, a bill on the code of procedure, and a personal status bill, etc.

The former president of the People's Assembly, Dr Sufi Abu Talib, sent the reports of the committees on the application of Islamic law and their attached bills on to al-Azhar more than 2 years ago. What I know for sure is that the professoriate of al-Azhar has not yet completed the final review of these bills. If we may demand that the enactment of laws on the application of Islamic law be hastened, let us direct our demands for haste at al-Azhar. I believe that it could complete its final review in less time if it assigned it to an expanded committee that would join together its representatives and the representatives of al-Azhar University in the Islamic law committees of the People's Assembly which have completed their task in full. These representatives, by virtue of their having participated in preparing the committees' reports, are better able to review them carefully in a shorter time.

12547

CSO: 4504/242

EGYPT

ISLAMIC LAW ADVOCATED TO COMBAT CRIME WAVE

Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 28 Feb 85 p 7

[Article by Wahid Ra'fat: "Abduction, Rape and Divine Statute Crimes"]

[Text] The abduction and rape of women has engrossed the attention of the public with all its classes. It was natural that our press of various inclinations should deal with this subject with total candor. AL-WAFD newspaper, for example, devoted a whole page in the 14 February issue to this matter and followed it up in its next issue. Most of the Egyptian newspapers and magazines followed suit. Many demanded the maximum penalty for the perpetrators of these crimes that know no geographic boundaries, as do the revenge crimes widespread in Upper Egypt, for instance, but include the entire country from north to south and east to west. Criminals of all ages and groups were caught red-handed in these ugly crimes in Imbaba and Ma'adi, in the capital and Marsa Matruh, in al-Fayyum and Dakirnis and in Alexandria and other places! Many more have been kept a secret because a good number of the victims are females whose families prefer to remain quiet for obvious reasons. This suggests that we, some denials notwithstanding, are facing a serious social and behavioral phenomenon that is spreading for more than one reason, such as the taking of drugs, narcotics and hallucinogens and the watching of some indecent and, indeed, dirty movies which are banned by the official mass media. These are being increasingly circulated through the "video sets" after invading deep into the Egyptian countryside, not to mention the urban areas, without any serious control or censorship by the responsible local authorities. Egypt today has one million video sets, according to a recent report by the Shura Council's services committee!

Despite the interior minister's reply to questions and interpellations submitted by a number of majority and opposition deputies in the People's Assembly in the 9 February session that these crimes are running at a fixed rate and the statistics are reassuring because the number for last year was 14 incidents, down from 12-18 incidents for previous years! The people are not reassured in this regard. Yes, the law has stiffened the penalty for abduction coupled with rape to the death sentence, which has been applied once or twice, but the broad masses are still

ignorant of these facts, perhaps due to the wish of the government and its mass media to confine the discussion of such sensitive crimes to the narrowest scope possible, although the recent successive incidents of abduction and rape have forced everyone to face reality and to put the spotlight on the perpetrators and victims of these crimes, especially after the matter received extensive attention in the People's Assembly.

In this connection, many have demanded a return to the provisions of the Islamic Shari'ah, particularly those pertaining to legal punishment on grounds that the positive law does not provide total deterrence for the perpetrators of such crimes. Some pointed to the Sa'udi experience as a pioneer in the application of the divine statute whereby cutting off a thief's hand has led to a reduction in this sort of crime. They also demanded that the People's Assembly begin legislating immediately the theft and adultery punishments to deter the perpetrators of such crimes and because, regardless of what is being said about stiffer or amended penalties against abduction and rape crimes, the only thing that can reform society is the application of the divine statute (see the statement of Wafdist deputy 'Alawi Hafiz in the People's Assembly 9 February session; the article by Islamic writer, Ahmad Zayn, in AL-AKHBAR newspaper on 14 February; and the interview of al-Azhar's rector with AKHBAR AL-YAWM in the 23 February issue, page 4).

Undoubtedly these words speak fairly of the Islamic Shari'ah and explain what prompted our officials to amend the 1980 constitution to stipulate in paragraph 2, following a popular referendum, that the Shari'ah is the "primary source of legislation," not only a source of legislation. Moreover, it must not be forgotten that crime is boundless and that new crimes are being generated by modern society, such as the economic crimes that escaped the legislator's attention in the past, contrary to the divine statute which is limited and does not go beyond the crimes of theft, adultery, defamation, drinking, highway robbery and apostasy. The proof and penalty for such criminal deeds are legally circumscribed. The penalty for theft is cutting off the hand; for adultery, flogging or stoning; for drinking, flogging; etc. Outside these divine statutes, the ruler must determine an appropriate penalty for every crime. This is what Islamic jurisprudence calls "ta'zir" [discretionary] which includes most of the penal code's provisions save for the provisions of retaliation and blood money in murder and battery crimes.

12502

CSO: 4504/263

EGYPT

ROLE OF MEDIA IN MULTIPARTY DEBATES DISCUSSED

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 4 Mar 85 p 8

/Editorial by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Shali: "Shame"/

/Text/ More than 2 years ago, my friend Safwat al-Sharif, the minister of information, had invited me to visit him in his office to explore together the ideal way to enable the opposition to participate in the discussion and the debate with the government on radio and television.

After a long discussion, he promised me that within a period not exceeding 1 month from that date, he would have taken the necessary measures to invite leaders from the opposition parties to discuss all important matters with the cabinet, so that each party would reveal its position on these matters, on condition that the debate would be calm, free of disparagement, of hunting for errors, of exaggerations, of recriminations, free of...this and that, etc.

I had said to the minister that radio and television will become genuine national information media only if they express the opinion of all political currents, and if they open their doors to all parties. For it is neither logical nor acceptable that these organs, the property of all the people, should be monopolized by a single party in a country with a constitution stipulating the multiplicity of parties. I had cited the examples of the BBC, the VOA and even Israeli radio, which reflect all opinions, and are venues for all parties to broadcast from. That is why we find democracy prospering in those countries, and its institutions stable.

I had said to the minister that as far as our manner and conduct in the debates on radio and television are concerned, we can be nothing but relevant, and for a very simple reason: These media are two-edged weapons. The opposition would lose a great deal if it were to seize the occasion to resort to disparaging ministers, or to exaggerating at the expense of the people's sufferings, or if it were to depart from relevancy.

I had also said that British television had assigned a special channel to broadcast sessions of the House of Commons live, to a degree that the members themselves had demanded the suspension of this channel because television was continuously unmasking them before the masses.

In fact Safwat al-Sharif was true to his promise. Exactly 1 month after this conversation, I was surprised by the invitation I received from Professor Ahmad al-Razaz, the radio announcer, to participate in a discussion with the minister of industry on the program "One Opinion, Then Another." Others followed with the ministers of the economy, electricity, administrative development and agriculture. The program was a great success, to the extent that the ministers themselves had profited greatly from those opposing views, coming to accept many of them.

The last of those broadcasts, by way of example and without attempting to be exhaustive, was the one attended by the eminent Dr al-Ahmadi Abu-al-Nur, minister for awqaf, which was prerecorded 25 days ago. The elder brother 'Ali Salamah represented the Wafd Party, my friend Muhammad al-Hayawan represented the press, while I was representing the Liberal Party. In this broadcast, the minister for awqaf spoke in his gentle manner and sedate formulations about his responsibilities in the ministry, the organization for religious trusts and the supreme council for Islamic affairs. Following that, we ourselves spoke about all the problems and affairs that relate to this ministry. My share in the discussion concerned the imams of the mosques and their decisive role in Islamic society. I said that the mosque imam is the cornerstone of missionary activity and the right example for the people, as well as being an object of dignity and respect in society. This imam is now under observation in the mosque by the intelligence service and by informers. They are counting his words. This imam is constantly under the threat of being forbidden to preach in the mosque for any reason. There are hundreds of mosque imams who are being prevented from giving the Friday sermon.

The minister promised us that he would reconsider the problem of those imams. He also promised us that not a single imam would be touched or deprived of his freedom /line missing/ except for the ministry.

Finally, I have forgotten to mention that my friend Safwat al-Sharif had promised me that if we succeeded with the debate on radio, he would work to extend it to television, so it will be interesting to see if he will fulfill his promise, for would it be logical for us to debate the government on radio while the government debates itself on television?

Two Remarks

The Nasirites are coming, and with them is Salah Nasr and Hamzah al-Basyuni, and the Socialist Union (and...and...etc.).

In the elections for the president of the journalism union, Jalal 'Arif won, and Kamil Zuhayri lost...(what an uproar).

12775

CSO: 4504/265

LETTER FROM IMPRISONED NPUG MEMBER

Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 21 Feb 85 p 2

/Editorial by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus/

/Text/ From the prison of appeals, I received a letter signed by the prisoner Kamal Abu 'Aytah. I consider the charge against him to be a medal on his breast, which was to protest Israel's participation in the Book Fair.

Kamal Abu 'Aytah is a member of the central committee of the Grouping Party, and one of the young Nasirite leaders. In spite of our differences of thought and principles, I support him heart and soul in his ordeal. That is what I have learned from Islam, my religion: to stand by every oppressed person.

Kamal says in his letter, "We were arrested and interrogated on numerous charges before the state security prosecutor. Some of the charges were that we demonstrated in front of the Israeli section of the book fair and distributed leaflets against it; we denounced the normalization of relations with the Zionist enemy and burned its flag. Another charge was that we put pressure on the political authorities, as if it had become all right for the Zionist enemy to put pressure on them so it could stay at the book fair, provoking the feelings of the Arab people.

We were arrested and an order was issued that we be detained indefinitely. We were put in Egypt's most squalid prison, the appeals prison, and to add insult to injury they put us in the cells prepared for those condemned to death!

We call upon all noble forces that reject dealing with the Zionists to raise their voices against all forms of dealing with them, so that it will become legal for every one of our people to have the right to reject their bring on out land. Prison does not harm us, even though we hate it, but what would hurt us would be for the act of resisting the Zionist presence--that danger which threatens our country--to die out. Either we move to encounter it or we might as well set up tents for the refugees. We say loudly that prisons will not scare us; rather we see them as the natural place for any honorable person over whose country flies the flag of the enemy. The honorable parties, the free trades unions, and all organizations that have expressed their rejection of the Zionists are today called upon to continue in that line so that our movement will not turn into a gust of wind put out by four of our people being offered as sacrificial rams for rapprochement with the Zionist enemy. The movement which began the very day the Zionists set foot in our country will not cease. It will not be a seasonal thing or a temporary fad; rather, it is an act that will go on as long as there are any strange feet on our pure land.

EGYPT

VIOLENT INCIDENT DURING JOURNALISM UNION ELECTION DESCRIBED

Cairo AL-AHRAM: AL-TAB'AH AL-DUWALIYAH in Arabic 3 Mar 85 p 6

/Article by Faruq 'Abd-al-Majid: "Hour by Hour in the Most Violent Election Campaign Experienced by Journalism Union. Who Is the Real Culprit in the Unfortunate Assault Incident on the Former Journalism Union President Within Union Premises?"

/Text/ The union of journalists experienced its hottest and most violent election campaign ever on 1 March.

The election campaign extended over more than 24 hours, beginning at 8 am Friday, 1 March and continuing until the final results were announced to the members of the union assembly on the morning of 2 March.

The union of journalists had been transformed since early morning into a veritable beehive "buzzing" with activity, life, struggles, propaganda, and announced and unannounced maneuvers.

Although the elections took place in a model democratic atmosphere and with exemplary impartiality, the finale was extremely unfortunate, after the ugly incident of assault on the former journalism union president occurred immediately following the announcement declaring Ibrahim Nafi' the new winner of the position. Moreover, the unfortunate assault incident persisted outside union premises, and had the Rescue Police not intervened, uncommendable consequences would have ensued.

If the incident was truly unfortunate, it nevertheless was perpetrated by the "few" who do not represent the honorable majority of upright journalists who are bearing the trust of safeguarding the word, individual opinion, and the truthful expression of all that the Egyptian street is undergoing.

Union members began arriving at the union building in the first hours of a decisive and exciting day in the history of the Journalists Union. The union had never witnessed such a throng, which from the first moments of Friday morning, 2 March, confirmed that the members of the Journalists Union had been fired by the fervor of the campaign, the outcome of preceding meetings that took place in preparation for this crucial day.

A quorum for the general assembly was announced at 1 o'clock, when the number of attending members had reached approximately 1,201, which is in excess of the 1,097 members required for a quorum.

The union had prepared for this day. Lists of candidates were wo widespread as to obscure the outlines of the building, and thousands of leaflets were distributed. Voting went on up to exactly 5 o'clock, when it was announced that the 14 ballot boxes had been sealed with sealing wax and transferred to the union's main auditorium where the members of the general assembly had thronged, and where ballots for the president began to be counted. It took approximately 6 full hours in front of all voting members, who were sitting in excited fervor, keeping track of the ballot count vote by vote, until the last ballot box was counted. The numbers before the observers and those responsible for the counting operation confirmed that Professor Ibrahim Nafi' had received 663 votes while his opponents, Professors Jalal 'Arif, Safinaz Kazim and Ibrahim Hafna had received 590, 54 and 15 votes respectively.

As soon as the former president, in his capacity as head of the ballot counting committee, had announced the result, according to the ballots, that Ibrahim Nafi' had been elected president of the journalists, and at the moment of entry of the new president to the ballot counting auditorium to assume the duties of his position, which require him to continue with the procedure of counting the ballots of the journalism union members, some disturbances occurred inside the ballot counting auditorium, in a manner that is completely at odds with the healthy democratic atmosphere in the spirit of which all election procedures were conducted.

Some of those present objected to the result and this objection took the form of insulting the ex president, Professor Salah Jalal, who left the union /hall/ to avoid any clashes. But the objectors chased him to the street and gathered around him in a demonstration that is unbecoming of the honor of the profession and its image before the crowds of citizens who had gathered, stunned at what was taking place during the elections of the wielders of the pen, who are the opinionmakers in Egypt. The chase turned into attempts to harm Professor Salah Jalal, the ex-president who performed his duty in an honorable manner before all members, and who stood his ground, attempting to explain the result of the ballot count to the objectors. But none of those who were stirred up by the result would listen. The matter turned into a chase of the journalists' president and into attempts to assault him, until the rescue car plucked him out of the hands of those who were attempting to harm him and who encountered great difficulties in achieving their aim, as many honorable men had surrounded him, shielding him from harm with their bodies.

Their objection was limited to a number of ballots which, through an error of the voters themselves, were placed in the boxes for board members, and not in the box for electing the president and to the possibility that these ballots numbering nine ballots in all, could change the outlines of the result, had they been counted.

In order to avoid any doubt about the result, the union board--under the chairmanship of Professor Jalal 'Isa, vice president of the union, and Professors

Mahmud Sami, Aminah Shafiq, Muhammad Salmawi and 'Isamah Saraya, acting members--decided to extract the nine ballots, the bone of contention for the objectors, from the boxes for boardmember candidates. Those 14 boxes were actually opened, and the white ballot papers of the presidential candidates were extracted and set aside, until all the boxes were opened. The balance of those ballot papers was nine ballots. The committee announced the results of those nine ballots, one by one, in order to be added to the previous numbers. Professor Ibrahim Nafi' received five of those votes, while professors Jalal 'Arif and Ibrahim Hania received two and one votes, respectively, the last ballot being declared invalid. Thus the final result became 668 votes for Ibrahim Nafi', 592 votes for Jalal 'Arif, 54 votes for Safina Kazim and 16 votes for Ibrahim Hafna.

With this corroborating and decisive result no one found any other pretext to ignite the attitudes within the union. The voices of the union members who witnessed all chapters of the story rose to cheer the victory of Ibrahim Nafi'.

The union members then began to get an idea of the situation that exploded without any reason. All the journalists rallied around their new president, who had entered the ballot counting auditorium to greet his wellwishers. Jalal 'Arif then stood at the podium, and in a spirit of genuine brotherhood announced that the elections had been conducted with complete impartiality, thanking the committee that had overseen the elections. The man then embraced the new president of the journalists in a fraternal spirit, congratulating him, and conducting a brotherly conversation with him which melted away completely the long trail of the elections and the forms of rivalry which it involved.

Professor Ibrahim Nafi', president of the jouranalists, then gave a speech in which he said: This is a historic day for the journalism union. We have gone into clean elections and have come out better, working together for the benefit of the profession and journalists. I thank those who stood by the side of my colleague, Jalal 'Arif, causing the elections to proceed with complete impartiality, and I also thank those who stood with me. As far as I can, and with the help of God, I shall work to implement my program and that of my colleague, Jalal 'Arif.

The new president of the journalists' union assumed his duties and took charge of the ballot count for the union board, and then announced the result for the first committee. After this the union board asked him to leave because of his great exhaustion throughout the day of the election campaign. The ballot counting operation for the union board went on for 12 continuous hours, and in absolute tranquility.

The ballot counting operation is considered to be one of the longest operations of its kind to take place in a long time. The union board announced the victory of the six members, and they are Professors Muhammad Abd-al-Quddus, Sa'id Sunbul, Philip Jalab, Fathi Rizq, 'Abduh Mubashir and Ibrahim Hijazi. Many of the union's general assembly members confirmed that the election campaign is considered to be one of the most impartial and vigorous campaigns, in spite of its great fervor, and the excesses that took place, perpetrated by those accustomed to provoking such disturbances in all the election campaigns of the union.

The new union board under the chairmanship of Professor Ibrahim Nafi', president of the journalists' union, will meet in the next 2 days to form the office staff and to begin dealing with union affairs for the next session.

Amendments to the Union Law

The general assembly of the union of journalists had ratified at its meeting 2 March, its agreement to begin making some amendments to the union law, and the illegitimacy of the merger or subservience of any press organization that is under the supervision of the Supreme Press Council to any governmental or administrative body.

This campaign, as some have described it, had the distinction of being considered as the most fervent of campaigns for some years. Absolute impartiality prevailed. Journalists, young and old, in addition to the appearance of the female element too, responded by participating in this campaign. In spite of this competitiveness, it should be remembered that all were competing with great dignity, excepting the eccentric few. When it was time for the Friday prayer, a colleague lead the worshipers in prayer and urged unity and adherence upon them, and when it was time for lunch, everyone dined together.

Many colleagues abroad were keen to participate in this campaign and traveled at their own expense to participate in this campaign, and this is considered to be the first time that journalists from abroad participated in the election campaign to elect their president and the union board, this being an indication of loyalty to the profession. The programs of the candidates and propaganda leaflets were characterized by a single trait, which is "the confrontation of the housing and transport problems, raising the minimum wage for journalists, raising the compensation for the nature of the work and increasing the resources of the union." It is curious that this program was demanded by the youthful and older journalist alike, which confirms that there is a common denominator for these problems. As for the impartiality of the campaign, the union board had decided on certain checks, the most important being the restriction of entry to the union to members only, on presentation of a union card or any personal identification, and with the member signing opposite his name on lists prepared for this. The elections were conducted strictly by secret ballot.

Once again we repeat that the elections of the union of journalists have been conducted in a democratic atmosphere and with absolute impartiality. The "few" who wanted to disfigure the beautiful picture did not succeed in their devilish task however, and it is now time to call those "few" to account so that they do not revert to practicing their hobbies in disfiguring all that is beautiful, wonderful and clean.

12775

CSO: 4504/265

EGYPT

SHAYKH AL-MAHALLAWI SCORES MASS MEDIA FOR RAPE CASES

Cairo AL-NUR in Arabic 27 Feb 85 p 1

[Article by 'Abd-al-Hasib al-Khanafi: "The Government Is Behind the Rape Crimes Because of Its Mass Media"]

[Text] Islamic call advocate Shaykh Ahmad al-Mahallawi declared that the government is behind the rape crimes that have emerged in the country through its mass media and the propagation of moral poisons in the hearts of young men and women, particularly the immoral movies and TV programs broadcast on Egyptian TV. He said this in a speech delivered at al-Nur Mosque in al-'Abbasiyah [district of Cairo] last Friday to a large crowd of worshippers.

Shaykh al-Mahallawi added: "I am not defending the defendants in these crimes, but the mass media have helped them to commit their crimes, in addition to the positive laws followed by the government which do not deter criminals and perverts. If the government wishes to eliminate these crimes, it must draw the remedy from the Shari'ah, instead of the nondeterring laws, and must ban the manufacture and use of alcoholic drinks in Egypt because they are the root of these crimes. It must also direct the mass media to ban movies and TV programs that induce perversion."

Shaykh al-Mahallawi also said: "I did not pray the prayer of rain because it has to be outdoors where men, women and children can go out to implore God to relieve their distress and send rain. Praying for this inside the mosque is a violation of the Prophet's Sunna. However, the security agencies do not allow us to conduct this prayer outdoors."

12502
CSO: 4504/263

SUDAN

IRAN SAID BEHIND MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD'S PLANNED COUP ATTEMPT

Cairo AL-AHRAM: AL-TAB'AH AL-DUWALIYAH in Arabic 15 Mar 85 p 6

[Article by Mahmud Murad: "Sudanese Minister of Information to AL-AHRAM: Iran Is Behind Latest Attempts to Seize Power in Sudan; U.S. Vice President's Visit to Khartoum Has Nothing To Do With Economic Conditions"]

[Text] Khartoum--In an exclusive statement to AL-AHRAM, 'Ali Shummu, the Sudanese minister of culture and information, has said that Iran is behind the Muslim Brotherhood's latest attempt to seize power in Sudan and that nearly 80 of the group's leaders, including figures who occupied important positions in the Sudanese Government, have been arrested. 'Ali Shummu has also said that those arrested in accordance with the recent measures do not include any members of the Sudanese armed forces and that their arrest was tantamount to a pre-cautionary measure to prevent the Muslim Brotherhood from seizing power in Sudan.

'Ali Shummu, the minister of information, added that a presidential decree has been issued dismissing 11 Muslim Brotherhood leaders from their positions, including 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, the People's Assembly majority leader, 3 leaders holding constitutional positions, 3 judges and 5 members of the Socialist Union's Political Bureau and Central Committee.

A total of 38 Muslim Brotherhood leaders have been arrested in Khartoum alone. These arrests were made after information became available on the activity of these leaders.

Answering a question on how sensitive were the positions held by those arrested recently, the minister said: It is really interesting that these people occupied sensitive and important positions in the political, executive, legislative and popular institutions. But the surprise vanishes when we learn the nature of the political structure existing in Sudan, especially in the wake of the national reconciliation phase, where there are no political parties and where democracy is exercised through a single political organization, namely the Sudanese Socialist Union, which is founded on the alliance of forces, meaning that whoever joins this organization abandons any other organization, even though every member has a political background. All these members are supposed to work under the canopy of the Socialist Union and of the May revolution.

There were those who opposed the revolution until the national reconciliation was achieved in 1979, including the Muslim Brotherhood and al-Ummah Party. After joining the framework of the revolution, these forces were given the opportunity to take part in the government and to hold various leadership positions in the various institutions and agencies.

The Sudanese minister of information further added that a tendency surfaced in the wake of the recent legislative developments among Muslim Brotherhood members with a common background. The connection between these members was maintained and they displayed positions and acts which required the security agencies to keep them under surveillance to gather information and data about them. When the matter reached a certain point, they were arrested.

The Sudanese minister of information has also revealed that the detainees were not arrested on a night when they were planning to stage an attempt to seize power but that the decision was made when the information gathered made it necessary to carry out the arrests in order to prevent the development of a certain situation as a result of what the Brotherhood had been planning, meaning that we, not the Brotherhood, were the ones who set the zero hour. The president decided to deliver his political announcement immediately after the arrest in order to clarify the operation. He asserted that the arrests had no connection with the execution of Taha Mahmud, the leader of the Republican Brothers, who are a totally different current.

'Ali Shummu has also announced that those arrested and those included in the dismissal decisions do not include any members of the armed forces and said that until the time the Brotherhood leaders were arrested, the Brotherhood had not staged the attempt to seize power but had been planning to do so, regardless of the consequences.

He further said that President Numayri has pointed out clearly that there is a connection between this Brotherhood and a country that is trying to export these [Islamic fundamentalist] principles beyond its borders. He did not mention the name of the head of this state but he was referring to Iran.

He said that this operation will result in no measures other than what is produced by the investigation that is going on now. We have before us other major tasks, including the adoption of advanced steps to bring about reconciliation with the rebels in the south through the formation of a national committee to undertake dialogue with the southern rebels and to achieve a solution that satisfies all parties and that brings about national reconciliation. This committee will be comprised of notables from the north and the south. Even though the rebels' radio is casting doubt on this step, we believe in the importance of the step and of having positive responses to it. This is a very important political development.

There are also before us other tasks from which we will not be diverted by the Muslim Brotherhood's latest attempt.

'Ali Shummu, the Sudanese minister of information and culture, has stressed in his statements to AL-AHRAM that U.S. Vice President Bush's recent visit to Khartoum had nothing to do with Sudan's economic situation and that what has been said in this regard is untrue. Here, I would like to assert that Sudan had been notified of the vice president's visit before announcement of the suspension of [U.S.] economic aid. Although 18 February 1985 had been set as the date for the visit, this visit was postponed until 4 March 1985. Shummu has said that the visit's main objective was familiarization with the issue of the African refugees in Sudan and with the starvation, drought and desertification threatening 7 million Sudanese citizens. Bush's mission has emanated from his country's [sense of] responsibility. Naturally, a visit by the U.S. vice president to a friendly country like Sudan must inevitably include a discussion of all aspects of the relations between the two countries.

8494

CSO: 4504/272

SUDAN

FOREIGN MINISTER BRIEFS OAU COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

JN151210 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1017 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Mar (SUNA)--Foreign Minister Hashim 'Uthman received the 15-member OAU committee on refugees yesterday evening. The delegation arrived in the country on 10 March to become acquainted with the refugee situation in Sudan.

The minister explained to the delegation Sudan's distinguished position, Sudan's dialogue with eight African countries, and its foreign policy that is based on the principle of avoiding interference in the internal affairs of countries and on good-neighborly relations.

His Excellency also explained to the delegation that this policy stems from Sudan's eagerness to provide security for itself and its neighbors. This is because loss of security in the neighboring countries will be negatively reflected on Sudan, and the influx of huge numbers of refugees into Sudan is a manifestation of this situation.

The minister affirmed Sudan's eagerness to bring about just and lasting solutions to the refugee problem. He also affirmed that the best solution to this problem lies in the dialogue among countries, in accordance with what President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri called for in his January 1985 speech in Juba on Independence Day.

The foreign minister affirmed Sudan's commitment to the international charters and norms concerning the refugees. He also affirmed Sudan's interest in regional cooperation as a successful way to solve problems among neighbors.

The delegation commended Sudan's efforts to host refugees and provide shelter, living, and security for them.

The delegation visited the refugee camps in the Eastern and Darfur Regions. It also met with several officials and people concerned with the refugee issue in the national capital and in the two regions.

CSO: 4500/71

SUDAN

BRIEFS

DIALOGUE WITH REBELS CALLED FOR--Khartoum, 26 Mar (SUNA)--Major General Ba-Bakr 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary of the SSU Committee for the Regular Forces, has stressed the need to achieve a peaceful solution to the problems of the homeland. He called for dialogue as a way of dealing with problems and differences. In a statement today, he also reiterated the call President Numayri made in his recent speech on the outlaws to hold national interests above personal interests, and to resort to dialogue and negotiations instead of fighting. Regarding the central leadership's decisions and recommendations, Ba-Bakr 'Abd-al-Rahim said that they are realistic and can be implemented. Commenting on the central leadership's decisions and recommendations, Kamal 'Umar, secretary of the Political Affairs Committee, stressed the importance of concentrating on the issues of production as a solution to Sudan's economic problem. He also pointed to the need to refrain from mixing the Islamic method that the revolution has introduced as a guide and a way of life in Sudan, with the allegations of the Muslim brothers, who played no part in applying Islamic law in the country. [Text] [JN262055 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1752 GMT 26 Mar 85]

CSO: 4500/71

TUNISIA

BRIEFS

MEDIA AGREEMENT WITH OMAN--Muscat, 19 Mar (TAP)--The Tunisian Minister of Information Abderrazak Kefi signed the minutes of the bilateral talks he had yesterday with his Omani counterpart, 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas, in Muscat. The two sides agreed on a cooperation program in 1985 regarding increased exchanges of radio and TV programs and teams of technicians and journalists, as well as the strengthening of cooperation between TAP and the Oman News Agency in training matters. [Summary] [Tunis TAP in French 1400 GMT 19 Mar 85]

BALY MEETS WITH U.S.--Tunis, 19 Mar (TAP)--Defense Minister Slaheddine Baly received General Richard Lawson, deputy commander of American Armed Forces in Europe, in the presence of high-ranking National Army officers and Peter Sebastian, U.S. Ambassador to Tunis, on Monday. Their talks concerned issues of common interest, Tunisian-American cooperation in the military field, and means of developing it. [Text] [Tunis TAP in French 1400 GMT 19 Mar 85]

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH GUINEA--Tunis, 19 Mar (TAP)--Tunisia and Guinea concluded a bilateral cooperation agreement yesterday covering the economic, scientific, technical, and cultural fields. The agreement was signed for Tunisia by Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi and for Guinea by Captain Facine Toure, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and international cooperation. The agreement also aims to promote bilateral trade and industrial cooperation. [Text] [Tunis TAP in French 1400 GMT 19 Mar 85]

USSR-TUNISIA SPORTS PROGRAM--Tunis, 25 Mar (TAP)--Tunisia and the USSR have signed a program on sports cooperation on the occasion of the visit being paid to Tunisia by Mr Gramov, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports. The main areas covered by the program are: exchange of teams of sportsmen, proficiency courses run by Soviet instructors, courses for Tunisian coaches in the USSR, visits by Soviet experts for meetings and research into sports training methods, and exchange of information between cadres' schools in the two countries. [Summary] [Tunis TAP in French 1500 GMT 25 Mar 85]

CSO: 4500/70

ISRAEL

FEARS OF RISE IN UNEMPLOYMENT OUTLINED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Feb 85 pp 1, 2

[Article by Gid'on Alon: "Labor Ministry Memo Warns of Freeze, Fear of Increase in Unemployment to 125,000"]

[Text] A Ministry of Labor and Welfare internal memo on the short-term employment situation asserts that the freeze in national product growth and business expansion will continue this year. Accordingly, economic policy will concentrate on a further reduction in public demand, which will lead to additional declines in standards of living and investments, economic stagnation and budget cuts.

The memo, which was prepared by David Katz, director of the Labor Ministry's Manpower Planning Authority, is based on several information sources, including a Treasury Ministry economic policy paper and a national economic proposal for the years 1984-90 prepared jointly by the Ministry of Economic Planning and the Economic Planning Authority, both of which forecast a worsening of the domestic recession.

According to estimates in the memo, there will be a clear reduction in business sector employment in the coming months, with the financial and service segments especially hurt because of the contraction of local markets and the continuation of the bank crisis. A significant reduction in building starts during 1984 caused by a continued decline in investments will reduce employment in the building sector, hurting both Israelis and Arabs living in the West Bank and Gaza. Declines in commercial- and food-related sector employment is also foreseen, due to the reduction in local business activity and reduced import activity.

A decline in employment of 5,000 is expected in the affected business sectors, but a measurable increase in employment is foreseen in the industrial sector, especially in such growth areas as power generation and electronics.

According to this scenario, indications are that business and public sector employment will decline by 7,000 over the next few months, while an estimated net 35,000 people will join the work force per year. Thus, a worsening of the employment situation in the near future will result in 125,000 unemployed by midyear, comprising 8.5 percent of the civilian work force (compared with the current unemployment figures of 98,000, or 7 percent, made public in a HA'ARETZ exclusive 2 days ago).

This volume of unemployment foreshadows an increase to 25,000-30,000 unemployed (out of work at least 6 days) adults seeking work through employment bureaus during the summer months. The memo predicts that unemployment will hit youth, women, academics, technicians and those living in provincial towns especially hard.

4,320 Refuse Work

During January there was a 12-percent increase in the number of unemployed who refused jobs offered to them through employment services. In sum, 4,320 unemployed people refused work offers during January, as opposed to just 3,866 in December and 3,467 the previous January. The largest concentration of job refusals occurred in Jerusalem (641), Western Galilee (529) and Tel Aviv (441).

Moshe Qatzav, the minister of labor and welfare, has said repeatedly that the relatively high number of work refusals is a disgrace to Israeli society and that measures must be taken to reduce these levels.

For January, job seekers totaled 47,000 (45,000 in December), and those out of work for at least 6 days numbered 21,000 (21,780 in December). The greatest number of job seekers were in Tel Aviv (7,027), Haifa (5,384) and Jerusalem (4,257).

Qesar Warns of Unrest

Yehoshua Gilboa, HA'ARETZ, reports from Haifa: Commenting on the Labor Ministry's forecast of a midyear increase in registered unemployed (out of work for at least 6 days) workers from 21,000 to 30,000, Yisra'el Qesar, general secretary of the Histadrut, warned that worsening unemployment will lead to social unrest that will threaten our society and national unity. Yesterday Qesar toured factories in the Haifa bay area.

Qesar added that, in keeping with labor accords, the Histadrut will begin negotiations with employers on production worker pay increases in the next few days.

Among other things, Qesar said, he is pressuring the government to expedite its treatment of the unemployment issue and is also advocating that new labor sectors be developed through an increase in investments.

In answer to a question, Qesar emphasized that the Histadrut categorically opposes a shift to a 5-day work week as a means of alleviating unemployment. He said that the Histadrut would agree to this solution only in exceptional circumstances for limited time periods, with worker committee approval. In expressing his strong opposition to the recent political appointees to the Israel Maritime League, Qesar said: "How is it possible to hire new people at the same time that others are being fired, even if we are speaking of only a handful of individuals?"

12833

CSO: 4423/11

ISRAEL

SPREAD OF GERMAN PASSPORTS IN ISRAEL QUESTIONED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Feb 85 p 7

[Editorial: "German Passports in Israel"]

[Text] The German news agency DPA has reported that over 5,500 Israelis requested West German passports from the West German embassy in Tel Aviv during 1984. Nearly 500 of the applicants are grandchildren of former Germans. Processing of these requests will take years and will lead to long delays for approval.

It would be surprising if the requests were turned down because until now, the Federal Republic has viewed these requests favorably. This positive treatment matches the authorities' willingness to display their basic approach, that of encouraging a renewed Jewish presence in Germany. Even though the number of German emigres who have returned to Germany from Israel is inconsequential, the Bonn government, by granting German passports, has indicated its desire to correct past wrongs perpetuated by the Nazi rulers of the former German Reich.

One should not fault the Bonn government and its representatives, but the same could not be said about the Israeli applicants. These 5,000 are not unique; it is an open secret that thousands have preceded them. At first, the reason given by those applying for German passports was that an Israeli passport made foreign travel difficult. During Israel's early days, many governments requested that Israelis obtain entry visas for their countries, while those carrying German passports were not required to do so. But over the course of time, this reason is no longer valid.

However, carrying a German passport has become a widespread act, almost a worthwhile one, although many such passport holders generally refrain from speaking about it. Although some have considered holding such a passport as a disgrace, many of those who privately denounce the practice have ultimately agreed with the majority view that a passport's sole function is to make things easier for a traveler.

But this approach is opportunistic and has no parallel among other nations. An Israeli who displays a West German passport in his foreign travels is considered a German by border inspectors, not an Israeli. If Israel's own citizens deny their identity, then for what purpose was the State of Israel created?

The late P. H. Kish, who was brought to Palestine by Haim Weizmann to lead the political department of the Zionist organization out of a belief that, as a former lieutenant colonel in the Royal Engineer Corps, he would successfully serve the Jewish cause in contacts with the British Mandatory Government, tried to exchange his British passport for a Palestinian one during the 1920's. He felt an obligation to do so in order to prove his identification with the national Jewish home that he chose to serve. Kish was disappointed to learn that, as a native British subject, he was unable to swap his British citizenship for that of another entity.

The State of Israel permits immigrants from the United States, Great Britain and other countries to retain their original citizenship if they also obtain Israeli citizenship, but it never entered legislators' minds that Jews who had fled Germany would seek once more to carry a German passport. The Federal Republic is not a continuation of the Third Reich; however, those who believe that the chasm separating us from the Germans can be bridged must realize that relations can improve only with the unequivocal realization of our separate Jewish, national identity, not with the possession of a German passport that covers up this identity.

12833

CSO: 4423/11

ISRAEL

JPRS-NEA-85-057

22 April 1985

BRIEFS

NAZARETH FINANCIAL PROBLEMS--Ramaz Jerisi, acting mayor of Nazareth, said yesterday that because of Nazareth's 800-million-shekel deficit, commercial banks and the local government bank have seized the city's bank accounts, making it impossible for the city to pay wages due in January. He sent an urgent telegram to Arye Hecht, director of Local Governments in the Ministry of Interior, requesting an immediate 300 million shekels for the city from the funds promised by the prime minister in order to avoid a work stoppage. [Text] [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Feb 85 p 5] 12833

CSO: 4423/11

JPRS-NEA-85-057
22 April 1985

HEAD OF PARLIAMENT APPEALS FOR PALESTINIAN MODERATION

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 9 Feb 85 pp 22-24

[Interview with Husayn al-Husayni, Chairman of the Chamber of Deputies, by Joseph Qusayfi: "We Reject the Return of Armed Palestinians"]

[Text] The chairman of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, Husayn al-Husayni, who presents the watchword of "moderation and justice" in his political life, believes that the Lebanese people are united and of the same origins, although they have been broken down into sects and factions. Today he is considered a man of dialogue who enjoys the respect of all Lebanese, Christian and Muslim, because through his liberal outlook, generous spirit, responsiveness and understanding he has helped to dissolve the barrier of ice which has arisen between Shiites and Christians and has advanced a new spirit and a different tone from that which had prevailed in the country some months ago.

When he met us, he reminded us that he had extensive roots in the town of Jubayl, specifically in the al-Sayyad farm, the peaceable Lebanese village which sired Mr Ahmad al-Husayni, who represented the true national leadership because he was a point of reference for the Christians ahead of the Moslems and they would frequent his open house in Kasrawan, Jubayl and the other areas of the al-Biq'a'.

They were comfortable with him and held great affection and respect for him. He was always in the position of rendering judgments, and his judgments were decisive and not to be rescinded. Husayn al-Husayni is proud of this legacy and works to preserve it. He says the al-Sayyad farm was the winter home of the al-Husayni clan and Shamastar was its summer home, exactly as is the case with Zgharta and Ihdin in northern Lebanon, and that the al-Husayni family is a flower which has bloomed in a number of areas and has circulated among more than one faction. In addition to the Shiites one can find the Maronites, the Sunnites and the Catholics, all lofty branches which nonetheless belong to a single trunk. From that arises his belief in the unity of the Lebanese people.

We visited him at his office in the temporary headquarters of the Chamber of Deputies in the Mansur palace. After a thorough conversation concerning the

al-Husayni family, its relations with the Lebanese spiritual families and the firm bonds which link it to other Christian families, especially the al-Hashim family in al-'Aqurah and other Lebanese villages, a discussion took place about everything: the Israeli withdrawal, the developments which might arise from that, Lebanese-Palestinian relations, Islamic-Christian relations, the strife in southern Lebanon and the western area of Beirut, relations with the government, appointments, and so forth. Chairman al-Husayni's answers appeared clear and spontaneous and issued forth from faith and conviction. The questions and answers are as follows:

[Question] Israel has started to carry out the first stage of the withdrawal plan it has endorsed. Does this mean that it has been frustrated in realizing the goals at which it aimed through its invasion of Lebanon?

[Answer] Israel's goal is not just to occupy Lebanon. Its goal is to break Lebanon up in order to achieve the fragmentation of the region. Lebanon is the entree for Israel's plan in the area, based on its belief that this is the weakest link. However, it has been proved in a manner which will not allow for debate that Lebanon is the strongest link, for the reason that no sooner did Israel invade its territory than it was able, as a people, to measure up to its honor and establish a serious resistance whose importance no one can deny. In spite of the way it tried to distort the national resistance in order to make it appear to concern one group to the exclusion of another, and in spite of the deteriorating situation in Lebanon, this resistance belongs to all the Lebanese and all groups and regions, because the damage from the occupation has encompassed everyone and all the Lebanese are paying the penalty, and consequently there is no one in Lebanon who does not want to liberate his territory. In my view, Israel will withdraw from the Lebanese territories for two reasons, first because of the resistance and second because of the economic collapse which has resulted from its involvement in Lebanon.

The chairman of the Chamber of Deputies explained:

"These two factors created an obvious Israeli public opinion which put pressure on the Israeli government to withdraw from Lebanon. In my view, also, Israel cannot postpone the withdrawal for the reason that the Labor Party won the elections under the slogan of withdrawal. Lebanon wants only the liberation of its territory. Israel's argument in demanding security arrangements in the south to guarantee that the Palestinians do not return to this area and create a situation such as that which prevailed before the invasion is to be rejected, because we ourselves reject the return of armed Palestinians to the south, not at all out of generosity to Israel but because we want security to be established on our territory. Therefore we are not concerned with Israel's security. One should bear in mind that the statement "the security of Galilee" constitutes the greatest lie, as has been proved by figures. Before the Israeli invasion of Lebanese territory, statistics showed that Israel's annual loss as a result of security disruptions in the south and Palestinian resistance operations came to three people. However, no sooner did Israel in its invasion reach the borders of Beirut than it gave up 600 victims, according to the information drawn from foreign media. This is above and beyond the losses it suffered from the time

it reached the capital until the time it retreated to the south, where it has stayed up to now. If we divide the number of persons killed by three we will find that Israel has paid cash for more than 200 years."

[Question] However, there are people who say that Israel will carry out its stages of withdrawal to the border strip and will put that under the surveillance of the Army of Southern Lebanon, which it will establish as a barrier between itself and the final point the army might reach.

[Answer] Not at all. Today there is a government in Israel that is based on a coalition between the people who bet on the invasion, the prisoners of "prestige" and advocates of the refusal to issue any condemnation of those who decided that matter, and the people who condemned the invasion and the results Israel reaped because of it, who are now in the position of responsibility. I would like to say more than this. Who was the cause of the disruption of security in the south? Who struck at the authority of the Lebanese government on the territory of the south? The Palestinian resistance was present for a long time but it was in the power of the Lebanese army to dominate there and create a state of security. It is Israel which prevented the army from bringing about a state of stability, which, through the red line it drew up in 1976, contributed to the aggravation of the state of instability and which contributed, one way or another, to having the resistance's shiploads of weapons come to the ports of Tyre and Sidon, with the goal of underlining the unstable situation in the south. It is not true that it is the security of Galilee which concerns Israel. Israel is trying to fragment Lebanon and that lies at the heart of its strategy, because the basis of Israel, since it was established, has been that the West supported it as a policeman guaranteeing the interests of the West in the Middle East. It is natural, today, that Israel should search for alternative support, because it has seen that Western support will of necessity erode with time and that the interests of the West will then lie directly with the Arabs and not through Israel. This means that its war in Lebanon caused the loss of the halo with which it had surrounded itself, which was that it was able to discipline anyone in the region on behalf of the West or for its own benefit, it made no difference. The West believed that Israel was its strategic ally as a result of the halo it had created during its wars with the Arabs. Today, however, since it came to Lebanon, its halo has become tarnished. What American or European official who used to support Israel views it today as a strategic ally which is able to protect its interests? If Israel is unable to protect itself in the south, how will it protect the interests of the others?

Husayn al-Husayni went on,

"All these factors converge in favor of withdrawal. It is necessary to take the current situation and its symptoms into consideration. We are witnessing the beginning of an international detente between the two great powers in the region, the United States and the Soviet Union. There is an Israeli retrenchment which has come about because of the factors I mentioned, and there is a readiness for withdrawal and an American-Soviet-European approval. Syria is able to provide support for the Lebanese state and help in the creation of a solution to the crisis of Lebanon. All these international and

regional factors will prompt us to benefit from this opportunity. We have an opportunity in front of us which we domestically can only benefit from. We cannot stop at the partial success which the coast plan has realized but must develop it so that it will be transformed into a real success."

[Question] Do you believe that strife will break out in the south in the wake of Israel's withdrawal?

[Answer] If Israel was betting on strife in the south, its bet was in error. The factors which exist in the south do not permit such a thing to be at issue, especially since the Lebanese have been depicted before world public opinion over the 10 years of the ordeal as peoples and tribes, with each tribe constituting a people, and we have been carried away by this notion to the point where we have come to see that there are people who say "our Shiite people," "our Maronite people," "our Druze people," "our Sunnite people," "our Orthodox people," and so forth. It has been proved in a manner which does not permit controversy that building on corruption will not lead to any results, and this is a totally corrupt theory. The Lebanese are a single people from single roots. Although they have become diverse through factional affiliation, this diversity of affiliation is a source of strength for them, and not a source of weakness. The proof of that is their stand in the south. Today, it is in my power to say that the issue of liberation has been restored to its comprehensive Lebanese context and its comprehensive Arab context. The Lebanese do not have the right to neglect the opportunity which is beckoning on the horizon.

[Question] There is a recommendation that key religious and political figures go to the south to keep up with the withdrawal and the arrival of the army in areas which Israel relinquishes with the goal of creating a base of psychological confidence. Are you in favor of this recommendation?

[Answer] Anything which will strengthen the solidarity of the Lebanese and unify their ranks ought to be taken into consideration, and it is our duty to join ranks, all of us, to thwart any strife Israel is generating in our midst.

In my opinion, the lessons of the past have constituted a wealth of examples which the Lebanese must benefit from. Israel's claim that it is concerned for a specific faction is false, now that it has become apparent that it has shown its concern for all factions. Most of them have experienced this concern and have realized what the consequences are. I cannot imagine that anyone in Lebanon would believe that Israel is fit to be a source of support for him domestically, especially since the game of seeking strength domestically from outside the country has produced nothing but total tragedy and pain. We must seek strength from one another in order to regain our unity and independence.

[Question] There is a new refrain, which is that of protecting the camps in the south. What is your opinion?

[Answer] Everyone knows that there are severe differences in views between us and some wings of the Palestine Liberation Organization, especially Yasir

'Arafat. What is being said on this subject does not serve Lebanese interests or the Palestinian cause. One should bear in mind that we are not arguing about such issues. When we insist on an armistice committee, we are performing our national role and saying that there still is a state of war between us and Israel, out of concern on our part for the interests and rights of the Palestinian people. We are not fit to establish peace in the region by ourselves. It has been proved in a manner which does not admit of argument that a separate peace any country might conclude with Israel is not fit to live and endure and cannot be realized in actual conditions, for the reason that Egypt, which is the biggest Arab country in terms of strength, numbers and area, made a peace with Israel, and we have seen what the results of separate peace have been. That cannot establish peace for Israel in the region. Likewise, it cannot normalize Israel's relations with the region. Consequently, the relationship now between Egypt and Israel is a formal one which has no value. Therefore we are performing our national duty when we say that we cannot infringe on the Palestinian cause and establish peace between Lebanon and Israel alone, apart from the rights of the Palestinian people. Conversely, the Liberation Organization ought to see that Lebanon has paid more than all the Arab countries as a penalty for the occupation. Lebanon has done more than its duty toward the Palestinian cause. Indeed, its identity and its territory have been subjected to the threat of annihilation and fragmentation. The time has come for Lebanon to emerge from its inferiority complex. To the contrary, Lebanon today is waging war against Israel through its people for the whole Arab nation combined, and no Arab can bid over Lebanon on the basis of what it has done and is doing. Therefore I can say that there is a rule: "The head of the household knows best what is in it." If we do not respect this rule, we will continue to thrash about in a vortex. Abu 'Ammar must realize this rule. We know our own situation and our national duties, and we will not abandon these. Nonetheless, the Arab countries must not take the position of observers toward us. They have a duty which they must carry out toward us. Our economy is in collapse and our financial situation is unenviable. We are waging the war alone.

[Question] Moving over from the south to Beirut, which is experiencing a state of disruption the western section did not witness even at the peak of dominance by the Palestinian organizations, in addition to a wave of stifling economic deterioration, while there is much talk about religious explosions flickering on the horizon, do you believe that strife will break out in the west of the capital?

[Answer] It is in the interests of the people conspiring against Lebanon to test every method which might contribute to its fragmentation. However, as with the previous lessons and examples, I imagine that there is no scope for religious strife in West Beirut, because the unity of Islamic ranks is assured and in existence and it is too strong to respond to such premises. At the same time, the grumbling about the security disruption in West Beirut is not restricted to a specific class or faction; it is comprehensive. Unfortunately, the government, which is supposed to include everyone who has influence over the combatants, so far is in a state from which no one is taking initiative, ignoring the rule of benefits for the master, which is not a secular rule but rather a divine one. No one can reap without sowing, no one

can earn without working, and no one can conduct business without paying the capital for the business. In other words, no one can be in authority and outside it at the same time. Either he is in authority or he is outside it.

Husayn al-Husayni continued,

"No one who is in authority can benefit from the resources and attributes of authority and at the same time engage in an activity which is against authority in order to strike out at it. It is necessary to emerge from this situation. I have referred many times to the blatant failure to which the system of security through mutual consent has succumbed. Security through mutual consent can constitute an approach by which security can be firmly established in a serious manner. However, it cannot be acceptable for the state of security through mutual consent to continue, because this state has made all the armed forces which are reacquiring legitimacy incapable of performing any action as long as this method exists."

[Question] That is, the situation that has existed since 6 February 1984 is no better than the situation that prevailed before that date?

[Answer] I am not anxious to go back either to before or after. What concerns me is his statement that the justification for the existence of this government is the creation of agreement among Lebanese. So far, this government has partially, and I emphasize the word "partially," brought about the suspension of the random bombing of citizens, but it has not achieved more than that.

[Question] What is preventing the army from being deployed all over Beirut, as it once was, so that it can impose security as it should?

[Answer] I am in favor of accelerating the reincorporation of the army, elimination of the brigades and a return to the system of battalions so that we will be able to bring the army forcefully and effectively into areas of unrest. This is what I did when I asked for the establishment of two battalions which did not belong to any brigade, in order to provide a preliminary example of this around the Chamber of Deputies in al-Najmah Square. I hope that the military council will be able to bring this solution about at the nearest opportunity, because this experience will give us great credibility, since we will deploy the army in all areas which require force to deter anyone perpetrating incidents against citizens.

[Question] In spite of the observations which you have made on behalf of the government, there are people who say that you are withdrawing from it greatly and prefer coordination between the executive and legislative authorities at the expense of the surveillance of government activities.

[Answer] We are in a stage where we find ourselves called on to exert pressure and engage in criticism of the government on the one hand and at the same time provide the necessary political cover to enable this government to take difficult decisions. There is no one among us who does not realize that the ministers, or most of them, have fallen prey to slogans which they uttered during the war. It is incumbent on the legislative authority to

provide the necessary political cover for these ministers as a group in order to enable them to get out from imprisonment by their slogans. That is one thing, and the exercise of our legislative and oversight duty as a legislative authority is something else. We cannot neglect pressure and oversight over the government, but at the same time we cannot abandon our duty to help the government when we must help it. We must look at the situation carefully since there is no obvious black and white but rather other colors between black and white which must be taken into consideration, and it is not in our ability to advocate the removal of this government, especially since we are asking it to perform acts which another one might perhaps not be able to perform. At the same time, it cannot participate in giving a free hand in terms of continuing to waste opportunities and waste time in the face of the permanent debts which are due. The government must face these debts which are due and we must guarantee it this aid, since it must help, and we must oversee it, criticize it and put pressure on it when that is necessary.

[Question] Do the new appointments, in your opinion, gravitate toward the category of the 1943 formula or are they a license to create new formulas?

[Answer] As everyone knows, I have no connection, remote or close at hand, with these appointments, in spite of my total respect for most of the people who have been included in these appointments. Rather, I have refused, do refuse and will refuse to enter into any factional "haggling." I am not one of those who are convinced that this method might lead to the desired result, and I hope that these appointments will have some positive features, but this is something that must wait till it assumes concrete form on the ground. So far, our economic situation has required exceptional treatment which would be much greater than the method by which the issue of the appointment of the governorate of the Bank of Lebanon was handled. In spite of my respect for all the people, I consider that most of the people who have been appointed to the board of governors are not specialists in financial affairs.

He went on,

"The fact is that all the people who were appointed are exceptional on the personal level. For example, in spite of my total respect for the person of Dr Edmond Na'im and his status in the law, the position for which he was chosen is not related to theories of law. The issue is related to financial and economic areas of specialization. This is what is not seriously to be found in the persons who were appointed to the governorate of the Bank of Lebanon. One should bear in mind that I am one of those who believe that economic pressure on Lebanon is a basic part of the conspiracy which is aimed at fragmenting and bankrupting this country and striking out at the Lebanese pound, which is one of the strongest factors for unity among the Lebanese. Dealing with the situation requires a more comprehensive, effective view. In any event, as long as this is what is going on, it is necessary seriously to cooperate to eliminate the dangers and the deterioration, which have reached a major extent during this stage. This requires a review of the roots of the problem and the avoidance of palliative or patchwork solutions. Our situation has reached a state of real seriousness and it is now

inevitable that we must avoid the policy of ad hoc action and partial remedies."

[Question] Do you believe that the appointments which have been made in the area of the official media could help unify them?

[Answer] I am in favor of the two people who have been appointed to the media, Ayyub Hamid and Michel Samahah. I respect them and appreciate them greatly. For the former I nurse special affection; I know him well and know his integrity and sincerity. I am attached to the latter by special friendship. However, I am worried about them as far as the positions that were assigned to them go, because the issue of the media is so delicate that we are compelled to pay attention to it, especially since the official media do not possess all the media or control them -- rather there are radio stations and television stations outside the control and oversight of the legitimate authorities, which makes it necessary that one refrain from giving the official media any class or party coloring. In any event, in spite of this view of the subject, we are in favor of giving everyone who has been appointed a full opportunity to succeed, whether that is in the context of the Bank of Lebanon or in the context of Lebanon.

[Question] During this period while you have been in a position of responsibility you have seemed to be a man open to dialogue with all factions, especially the Christian ones, which have started to view the platform you are following in dealing with seminal issues with satisfaction. Proceeding from that, do you believe that Christian-Shiite relations have returned to a sort of normal solidarity and that matters are proceeding on this level as they ought to?

[Answer] There are facts which one cannot transcend, which have been established by events. The first fact is that there is no scope for achieving anything through violence. The second fact is that there is no scope for any faction or class to come out of the ordeal by itself. Either everyone comes out of the ordeal or everyone remains in the harsh ordeal, which might be a lethal one.

Therefore I am not in favor of any solution if it does not entail the participation of everyone. We are not going through a state of revolution in Lebanon where the victor in the revolution can impose his vision on the others. We are going through a state of deterioration and decline in Lebanon as a result of the conspiracy which has had our existence as its target and has been aimed at fragmenting our country and tearing apart our nation. This situation requires that we be aware that it is possible only to reach mutual agreement through the combined will of everyone. I began my statement saying that the Lebanese are a single people from a single root and that they cannot be dealt with as peoples and entities; otherwise, they will have been driven to a conspiracy and will have carried it out by their own will. The relationship among the Lebanese must be controlled by rules which I have expressed more than once, foremost among them the rule of moderation and justice, and the rule that everyone is responsible for saving his country, whether he is a Shiite, a Maronite, a Sunnite, a Druze or whatever, especially since I adhere to the line which has always called for the

establishment of a state of national unity, a state of national concord, which requires the understanding that no group has the choice of imposing its opinion in full on the others, but rather that every group which wants to participate in creating a state of reconciliation must realize that the concessions must be in the interests in the nation and not be from one faction to another, because the faction which makes the concessions will not be content with making them and the faction which benefits from them will feel that it is not attaining its rights in full. Therefore, we must distance ourselves from the system of distributing shares among ourselves and all relinquish everything we have in the interests of the nation so that we will be able to build a nation and a government founded on the rule of moderation and justice, which are the nature and innate quality of Lebanon.

11887

CS0: 4404/249

SIDON DEPUTY PROMISES STABLE FUTURE AFTER WITHDRAWAL

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 9 Feb 85 p 26

[Article by 'Imad Jawdiyah: "Nazih Al-Bizri after the Attempt To Assassinate Sa'd: Sidon Is Stronger Than the Strife"]

[Text] The issue of the Israeli withdrawal from the city of Sidon and the area surrounding it still is attracting the attention of Lebanese officials, and indeed is to be considered their main preoccupation today. All efforts are being directed now at finishing deploying the Lebanese army along the coastal road in the desire to deploy it in the areas the occupation forces will evacuate, in order to prevent strife and massacres from breaking out there as a result of general measures Israel is taking.

Information which has been received from the occupied south uniformly states that while the Israeli forces are continuing to remove their military units from the city and its surrounding areas, in order to carry out the decision the government of Israel has announced of redeploying its forces, they are at the same time also intensifying their practices and measures to guarantee that they can work toward dissension which will repeat the experience in the mountain. Therefore, influential people from Sidon, following the assassination attempt on Eng Mustafa Sa'd, have taken precautionary security measures to keep from facing similar attempts. After the vile aggression which was aimed at dissension, these influential people have shown greater awareness, activity and homogeneity than before toward the possibilities Israel is displaying.

A government source has stressed in the same context that official attention is being totally devoted to the south today, because Lebanon is indeed faced with a basic repayment of an obligation and is trying to contain any incidents or dissension which might impede the steps the government is taking in the direction of establishing security and returning the country to its normal state.

The government source did not hide the Council of Ministers' anxiety over coming developments, since Israel is working to stir up dissension. However, the ground in the south is firm and is immune to dissension of any kind. The fear nonetheless remains that incidents will be fabricated which will

mobilize people, and therefore the government's decree that the Lebanese army will be the sole security instrument vigilantly watching over the safety of citizens in the south and preventing the fabrication of strife is clear and firm.

Regarding the atmosphere the city is living in today in the framework of the current Israeli preparations for a withdrawal this 18 February, the deputy from Sidon, Dr Nazih al-Bizri, said in a statement to AL-MUSTAQBAL: "I can say that the people of Sidon in particular and the southerners in general are stronger and more immune than the dissension which Israel is trying to sow prior to its departure from our area. We are holding together as one hand, Moslems and Christians, and Israel will not be able to sap our unity.

Our destiny is a common one, our goal is a common one and we have no enemy other than it. Yesterday it tried to inflame the fire of dissension among us through an attempt to assassinate our fighting brother Mustafa Sa'd, and the people of Sidon and the south, in spite of their various groups and factions, measured up to the national responsibility and immediately through their awareness and unity understood Israel's plot and caused it to miss its chance."

Concerning the assassination operations which took place in Sidon and the armed appearance in its streets and suburbs, al-Bizri said "Israel and the instruments of its agents are standing behind all these acts. Israel planted the agents on every street and prompted them to carry out acts of treason and murder with the goal of causing dissension to erupt among the people of the south. We are aware of everything Israel is plotting and therefore are counting on our people's genuine nature and know full well that these people who have resisted Israel and still are resisting it, and are making sacrifices for the sake of preserving the soil of their holy nation, will not be deceived by Israel's shameful acts. Therefore we repeat the statement, for the thousandth time, that Sidon is stronger than the dissension and that the south will remain the rock on which Israel's tyranny will be crushed."

Concerning the deployment of the army in Sidon following the Israeli withdrawal, al-Bizri added, "I urge all political and party leaders to seek to facilitate the army's task in the region and along the coastal line so that it will be fully prepared to enter the south immediately and deploy itself in the areas the occupation forces will evacuate. We will not accept any alternative to the Lebanese army and will not allow anything other than it to take charge of the security of the region after the occupation forces have evacuated from it."

Concerning the operations of the Lebanese national resistance, al-Bizri said, in conclusion, "The people of Sidon who have resisted the occupation with their southern brothers will continue to struggle and resist it. The city of Sidon will remain, as it was, the base and the support for the men of the Lebanese national resistance until the liberation of the last square inch of our sacred territory."

SENIOR BANKING FIGURE DISCUSSES MEASURES TO BOLSTER POUND

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 9 Feb 85 pp 42, 43

[Article: "Dr Hisham al-Bassat Proposes a Solution to the Crisis of the Pound: Set the House in Order then Borrow"]

[Text] Dr Hisham al-Bassat, member of the board of the Society of Banks of Lebanon and director general of the Arab Bank Ltd (Beirut), is one of the people who helped formulate the memorandum of the Society of Banks which was submitted to the Council of Ministers, containing the society's recommendations for remedying the economic situation in Lebanon and limiting the deterioration in the exchange rate of the Lebanese pound, particularly with respect to the American dollar.

AL-MUSTAQBAL met with Dr Bassat, who considered that most of the measures that have been adopted will not achieve the desired goal unless dollars start to be acquired from abroad. This will be difficult to achieve at present, unless the security circumstances are stabilized and the increasingly critical political situation begins to be remedied. Here is the conversation:

AL-MUSTAQBAL: How do you evaluate the latest measures which the Council of Ministers has taken to limit the deterioration in the exchange rate of the Lebanese pound?

Al-Bassat: There are two sides to the measures: the first is to confirm the free economic system, private initiative, the freedom to deal in currency and to make remittances, and banking secrecy. This involves replying to the rumors circulating recently about the regime's intention to impose restrictions on remittances, which provoked fear among capital owners. I would like to point out here that it is dangerous to change part of the system if this change is not part of a complete, integrated conception. This is where the danger lies in any decree which imposes a sort of oversight or restriction on remittances abroad.

The other side of the measures is related to technical procedures which have the goal of limiting the deterioration in the exchange rate of the pound and improving it. Among these I might mention for example the measures cited in

the memorandum of the Society of Banks which the Council of Ministers adopted to limit the growth of lending. However, restricting lending of course affects loans to productive sectors or loans that are developmental in nature, and could paralyze them. Therefore the Society of Banks has taken into consideration that the restrictions should be flexible and spelled out in accordance with the goals of the loan applicants.

Also included in these measures which were cited in the society's memorandum was the amendment of some general measures of the Bank of Lebanon, since it has been established that some of these obstruct the improvement in the exchange rate of the Lebanese pound or contribute to its deterioration. There is a general measure which was issued in 1974 whose goal was to weaken the position of the pound vis-a-vis the dollar at that time, since the banks were prohibited from establishing centers on behalf of the Lebanese pound, and another which imposed the establishment of a reserve of 15 percent in foreign currency on the banks.

A general measure was issued by the Central Bank in 1984 imposing reserves of 100 percent on Lebanese pound deposits coming from abroad. The goal in this measure was to support the pound, but experience has proved that it was not beneficial to the pound or that it was of limited effect in the face of the magnitude of the problem the currency market in Lebanon was facing.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: However, developments in the currency market have proved that the measures taken did not stop the deterioration in the exchange rate of the Lebanese pound.

Al-Bassat: There is no doubt that the measures will have a great effect in limiting the deterioration in the exchange rate of the pound. If they have not had an effect so far, that is because part of these measures have not yet been taken. However, it is necessary to point out that the depositors have lost their trust, rightfully or not, in the credibility of government measures. The general impression on the Tuesday which followed the exceptional session of the Council of Ministers was that what mattered was the execution, and execution is difficult, as we have become accustomed to realize through experience. One should bear in mind that part of these measures were previously carried out last year then later were gradually eliminated, for instance the reacquisition of treasury revenues.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: How do you technically evaluate the problem of the Lebanese currency market?

Al-Bassat: In brief, one can say that the movement of capital in past years was in favor of Lebanon, which managed to acquire balance of payments surpluses even during the years of the incidents which preceded the Israeli invasion in 1982, with the exception of 1978.

Recently, the volume of remittances has dropped because of the deteriorating security conditions, which have threatened capital and its freedom. Arab assistance has also dropped and investments have declined dramatically, being restricted only to necessary, urgent areas. This has all led to a deficit in the supply of foreign currencies in the local market.

The scope for foreign currency exchange started to narrow, especially after a large portion of depositors transferring pounds to dollars entered into it. This explains the constant rise in the rate of the dollar. One should bear in mind that the price of American currency is rising constantly in international markets. In my opinion, the direct solution is to pump more dollars into the market. This is a difficult operation because the margin for maneuver in the use of monetary facilities is extremely narrow, because of the drop in the Bank of Lebanon's reserves. However, political solutions to the Lebanese crisis, foremost among them national reconciliation, will be the main solution to the exchange market crisis. Reconciliation and security will increase the flow of foreign currencies into the Beirut market.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Will security alone solve the problem?

Al-Bassat: Security alone is not enough to solve the problem, although there are many experts who state that it is. Rather, reconciliation and security are the proper approach, not for solving the problem of the currency market but for the entire economic problem.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: The Council of Ministers' statement pointed out that Israel has sought to destroy the Lebanese economy. What is your comment?

Al-Bassat: There is no doubt that Israel has had a direct and indirect role in where we have come to today. The occupation has turned the Lebanese market into fragmented markets, it has constantly striven to strike at electric power, it has flooded the markets with cheap goods and it has destroyed the factories, farms and main facilities of the Lebanese economy, to a point where the Lebanese society now depends to a large extent on imports and we have become prisoners of imports. There is no doubt that had the productive base been solid we would not have got where we are.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Thus the solutions must in general be economic ones which are aimed at rebuilding the productive sectors, while the currency market requires urgent solutions.

Al-Bassat: There is no doubt that the solutions should be broken down into two categories. The first is the urgent one, and at the forefront of that is the restoration of treasury resources. Here I wonder, how has the government permitted and been silent about the plundering of its resources? Then there is the hastening of the disbursement of Arab aid, especially that which Tunisia endorsed in 1979 and so forth.

The other solutions are related to the stimulation of the productive sectors and their reconstruction, if that is necessary. However, all these solutions are connected to the provision of a degree of security, or the minimum economically and financially acceptable security.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Observers wonder why Lebanon does not use its great gold reserves.

Al-Bassat: This matter has been discussed at length in meetings of the Society of Banks and elsewhere. It became apparent in a manner which leaves no

room for doubt that it would be wrong to use these reserves under these circumstances. The Lebanese market is as close as can be to a tank that has been riddled with holes and in which water cannot be gathered, no matter how great its volume, so how would it be if the volume was limited? The gold cover might be useful in normal conditions, but not in the condition we are experiencing. Moreover I would like to point out that from the psychological standpoint as long as the gold cover exists and is not insufficient, the hopes remain great that it will be possible for the pound to regain its strength; however, if disbursement of the gold reserve starts, there is no doubt that the situation will be extremely delicate.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Do you believe that the pound will witness further deterioration?

Al-Bassat: If the measures are applied to the letter, the deterioration in the exchange rate of the pound will most likely stop.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: How would you arrange priorities among the solutions and the Council of Ministers' measures?

Al-Bassat: One factor in the frustration of the markets and the people conducting transactions is that reconciliation and security are still far from being translated into reality on the ground. Therefore, I put reconciliation and security at the top of the scale of priorities, followed of course by the government's reacquisition of its resources, whether from the ports and points of entry, the collection of electricity, water and telephone invoices and invoices for other services, or even the collection of fees and taxes, then the firm control of government expenditures and their reduction as far as possible.

After the process of setting the house in order from within, it will be possible for Lebanon to turn to borrow from abroad, from the International Monetary Fund, from the Arab development funds or from governments and countries.

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CS0: 4404/248

SAUDI ARABIA

TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH IRAQ CONCLUDED

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Mar 85 p 5

[Text] The joint Saudi Arabia-Iraq committee concluded 4 days of meetings yesterday in Riyadh. The two sides agreed on widening the scope of commercial exchange between the two countries, on exchange of exhibitions between them, and on exchange of expertise and information in engineering consultations. They also agreed to study proposals for a bilateral agreement on ground transportation between the two countries.

The minutes for the meetings of the committee's first session were signed yesterday in the Ministry of Finance and National Economy. Sa'id Ibn Sa'd Ibn Sa'id, acting undersecretary for economic affairs of the Ministry of Finance and National Economy signed for the Saudi side, and Qabis Sa'id 'Abd-al-Fattah, undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce for the Iraqi side.

46 Commodities Added

In the area of trade, the committee added 46 new commodities, including industrial, petrochemical, food and agricultural products and raw materials. It also studied effective ways to develop trade between the two countries and ways to overcome any difficulties interfering with it.

Agreement was reached on the exchange of delegations of businessmen and representatives of economic organizations in the two countries, and on participation by the two countries in international exhibitions which will be held in each of them. Agreement was also reached to hold temporary exhibitions in the two countries, calling for various production sectors to participate in them.

In the area of industry and engineering, the two sides agreed on expanding cooperation and exchanging expertise and information in engineering consultations.

Glass Fiber Project

In the area of transportation and communications, the committee decided to create special offices to study proposals presented to this session to conclude

a bilateral agreement on international ground transportation between the two countries and to explore linking two countries with a glass fiber project to facilitate telecommunications.

In the area of agricultural and veterinary issues, the committee referred to the relevant agencies a proposal for a bilateral veterinary health agreement.

Agricultural Bank Expertise Exchange

Also, the two sides agreed to cooperate in the exchange of technical expertise between the two agricultural banks of the countries. They also decided to raise the committees' suggestions to the two governments for the decisions needed to confirm and implement them, and to study the issues which the committee decided should be presented to the next meeting of the committee, to be held in Baghdad in the first half of 1986.

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CSO: 4404/256

SAUDI ARABIA

PRINCE NAYIF DESCRIBES RELIEF PROGRAM FOR AFRICAN DROUGHT

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Mar 85 p 3

[Interview with Prince Nayif Ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, minister of the interior, by unnamed correspondent for AL-MUSLIMUN; in Riyadh, date not given]

[Text] Prince Nayif Ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Saudi Arabian minister of the interior and chairman of the central committee on aid for victims of the drought in Africa, announced that the great response by the Saudi people to King Fahd Ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz's call for donations for the victims of drought in Africa has had a positive result. Local committees are still receiving additional donations. Every donor can be certain that his gift reached its beneficiary by secure means. Whoever wishes to volunteer to convey these gifts to their beneficiaries may approach the Saudi Arabian Red Crescent, which will prepare him for this and transport him to the aid locations.

Prince Nayif, in a special interview given to our sister publication AL-MUSLIMUN in Riyadh, published today, said:

The relief operations are still in the initial stage, but praise be to God, they have already had results. The operations have begun taking on a comprehensive quality just as the achievements are taking actual shape. The relief operations are now spread through a group of stations in accordance with the plans established for them. On directives from his majesty, the Central Committee and the Executive Committee are pursuing these humanitarian activities. A large number of stations of the Saudi Red Crescent have been opened in drought-stricken areas of the Sudan. They have been staffed with qualified doctors, nurses and employees needed to distribute relief materials, which are arriving constantly by transport planes of the Royal Saudi Air Force and by ship.

Since this area is short of vehicles and fuel, various kinds of vehicles have been provided, along with the necessary fuel and service parts. In order to realize these humanitarian services fully, the area was surveyed for drought victims, and a Saudi coordination office was opened in Khartoum to follow up on the relief operations and to visit the stricken areas, which the ministerial committees mentioned previously can not do. This was done to coordinate the relief operations among the stations in the area in a concentrated and efficient manner.

Prince Nayif continued, saying:

The great response by the people to his majesty's call for donations to this noble purpose have had this positive result. Local committees are still receiving donations. Every donor can be certain that his gift reached its beneficiary by secure means. Whoever wants to volunteer to convey these donations to their beneficiaries can approach the Saudi Red Crescent, which will prepare him for this and transport him to the relief area. We think that we are still at the beginning of the road, because the famine is widespread and wide areas of Africa have been damaged. The suffering of our brothers on this continent during this critical period calls for redoubling our efforts and giving generously.

The directives of King Fahd and the crown prince still urge us to give freely, and they emphasize the need to reach all of the stricken areas with aid. We hope to achieve this.

Report on Aid

From another perspective, the Central Committee for Aid in Africa published a report on the aid offered by the government and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It mentions the following:

--The Saudi Red Crescent has opened three stations in drought-stricken areas of the Sudan to provide aid in an effective manner. A fourth station will begin operation within a week, God willing, in order thus to completely cover the Sudan.

--Because of his concern to speed aid operations, King Fahd ordered food transported to areas far from sea ports by transport planes of the Royal Saudi Air Force.

--The necessary steps have been taken to send relief by air to the Niger. It will be distributed to the victims of the drought by a team from the Saudi Red Crescent.

--Preparations are under way currently to open an aid station in Mali to reach drought victims there.

--The necessary steps have been taken to lease large-bodied aircraft in addition to the weekly flights by the Royal Saudi Air Force to meet the goal of transporting relief supplies.

--Various local committees undertook to truck gifts in kind from their local areas to the port of Jiddah al-Islami, preparatory to loading supplies onto ships bound for the stations mentioned. To date, nearly 100 trucks have arrived in Jiddah from various areas of the Kingdom.

--To provide supplies for camps near seaports, a large quantity of gifts were sent to these areas by sea from the Jiddah al-Islami port.

--Twenty motor vehicles of various kinds have been provided, including:

A. Four trucks with a capacity of 11.5 tons, to transport supplies from the ships to warehouses designated for this by the Saudi Red Crescent.

B. Eight Jeeps for use by doctors, nurses and employees in distribution of relief supplies.

C. Two tankers with a capacity of 3,000 gallons and 2,000 gallons to transport and distribute fuel to the stations to facilitate the jobs of the workers.

D. Six four-wheel-drive vehicles to carry relief supplies and to transport the ill.

--Electrical generators and refrigerators used to preserve medicines and serums for medical treatment have been shipped to the stations there.

--In addition to the vehicles mentioned above provided for services and transportation of workers in camps, the Saudi Red Crescent has leased vehicles from local Sudanese companies to transport relief supplies from the main warehouses to relief stations far from the ports.

--In view of noble motives having lead some people to volunteer for charitable activities and participation in the relief operations, it has been announced that citizens wishing to participate in this humanitarian effort should approach the Saudi Red Crescent, which will receive them, register them, and take the steps necessary to send them in groups to the aid stations.

--The Saudi coordination office in Khartoum has been instructed to tour drought areas which Saudi delegations have not yet inspected, and to conduct a survey and present a report on all the situations which require aid so that it can be provided.

--The cash donations collected by major banks through the end of last month amounted to more than 97 million riyals. Gifts in kind of food are large, estimated to be in tons. The cash donations and donations in kind are still continuing.

In addition to cash donations and donations in kind of foods, some merchants have donated vehicles and equipment. There is no doubt that this noble spirit with which the Saudi citizens are blessed, their hastening to engage in charitable works and to participate in the relief projects, demonstrates the noble spirit and love for charity and readiness to work with which the citizens are blessed.

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CSO: 4404/256

SAUDI ARABIA

CUSTOMS DIRECTOR DISCUSSES UNIFIED TARIFF, PROCEDURES

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Mar 85 p 4

[Interview with Hamad Ibrahim al-Rashudi, director of the customs authority; in Riyadh, date not given]

[Text] Mr Hamad Ibrahim al-Rashudi, the Saudi Arabian customs authority director, spoke about customs cooperation which is being realized among the states of the Cooperation Council in the area of a unified customs tariff. In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT he stated that he is carrying out a study to determine which goods will be exempt from, and which subject to, tariffs. He emphasized that the government is striving constantly to simplify and ease current procedures in the Kingdom, pointing out the aspects of development which have been accomplished in this vital area, and he affirmed that there are no back-ups at the various transit points or ports.

Concerning customs cooperation among the Arab Gulf Cooperation states, Mr Hamad Ibrahim al-Rashudi, director of the customs authority in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, said that the economic agreement had treated and examined all aspects of customs. If we take, by way of example, what was included in the agreement concerning exemption of manufactured goods of states in the Cooperation Council, in Saudi Arabia this agreement was put into implementation on the first day it became effective, and manufactured goods began to flow into Saudi Arabia from other states in the Council--from the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Bahrain--freed from customs duties or hindrance and delay at land, air and sea transit points. No complaints or remarks have been noticed about this.

Concerning vehicles, whether entering or leaving Saudi Arabia, before implementation of the agreement private vehicles owned by citizens of the states in the Cooperation Council arriving in Saudi Arabia were required to have a special registry and declarations. But now, thanks to the agreement, these vehicles enter and leave Saudi Arabia without any hindrances or complaints.

Concerning application of the customs tariff, on the first day of its establishment, royal edicts were issued and the duties were raised to the stipulated minimum of 4 percent. The articles of the agreement were implemented precisely, in a sincere desire on the part of the Kingdom. We pray

that God grant success to the leaders of the countries in the Council with generosity and blessing. I expect that the next stage in agreement on customs will be brought to implementation in the near future, for these matters are now under study. It is known that the minimum customs tariff will be 4 percent, and that some goods and materials will be exempt. A study is underway to determine which items will be exempt from, and which subject to, customs tariffs.

Advancing Rapidly

Concerning his assessment of what has been accomplished so far, the director of Saudi customs said that the steps taken so far are admirable and fantastic, and no one had expected or dreamed that they could be realized in such a short period of time. In other states, in Europe for example, the clauses which we have undertaken to implement require years of discussion. Examples of this would be exemption of all manufactured goods of Council states, so as to allow these goods to enter, without barriers or restrictions, any member states of the Council, and the agreement on a minimum customs tariff of 4 percent. All of this has been agreed and implemented. From a theoretical view, everything that has been implemented is considered an important success and there is a sincere desire on the part of the leaders and officials responsible to support these steps.

In my mind, getting a unified customs tariff, which the economic agreement has specified must be done within 5 years will be achieved easily and quickly.

Import and Export Procedures

Concerning the accomplishments of customs procedures involved in bringing goods into or taking goods out of Saudi Arabia, Mr Hamad al-Rashudi replied that it is well known that any citizen or organization desiring to export goods to the Kingdom must provide the necessary documents for the goods, including a certificate of origin. These measures are international. If someone wants to bring goods into the country, he must obtain an import declaration form and fill in the information about the type of goods, their origin, number and their duty taken from the custom tariff list. This form must be presented to the proper authorities to number, and then the goods must be delivered for inspection, and the duty determined must be paid. These steps apply to all goods, regardless of whether their value is thousands or billions of riyals. After this, the importer receives a copy and may load the goods.

Concerning the developments which have been or are going to be introduced into the customs apparatus in Saudi Arabia, al-Rashudi said that in the area of organization, a computer system is being introduced, designed to include all of the Kingdom's customs stations, which number about 30 land, sea and air customs stations. Also, police dogs are being introduced to help in searching goods to help assure security and prevent the entry of forbidden items.

Thus customs endeavors to introduce all of the modern equipment which will help speed things along and help maintain security. The customs apparatus keeps up with international developments. Training courses are held at home and abroad

for customs officials, and there are opportunities for field research and academic study, at home and abroad. All of this aims to achieve for the customs apparatus the proper level, by way of constant effort.

The Saudi customs apparatus now includes hundreds of capable Saudis, qualified by bachelor's degrees, masters' degrees and diplomas in a variety of specializations.

Inspection Activities

In response to a question about how long it takes to carry out export procedures, al-Rashudi said that customs procedures for exporters are not long as they do not go beyond the task of examining the vehicle, which may not take more than an hour, even if the vehicle is loaded with many items, and it is possible that office work will not take more than a quarter of an hour.

For incoming goods, office work does not take more than one-quarter hour, or one-half hour at the most. Some land transit points take in about 400 shipments per day. The procedures for these shipments are completed within 3 or 4 hours, so that the process is completed and the shipment may continue on in the same day. Customs at al-Hadithah, for example, receives between 300 and 400 shipments all departing on the same day, a not insignificant number. A vehicle which arrives, whether morning or evening, leaves the same day, after it has been ascertained that its goods are proper, and none are subject to boycott, contrary to religion, or in violation of the security of the country. The simplicity and ease of customs procedures in the Kingdom are clear and well-known. I do not think it possible for customs procedures to be more simple than this.

Delays

In regard to back-ups and whether the Saudi ports have complained about them, and concerning the procedures to combat them, al-Rashudi said that the land, sea and air ports do not complain about any type of back-up. Firstly, the procedures are extremely simple, then the space in the various ports is sufficient enough to take in tens of thousands of tons of goods. Also, the customs procedures are completed in 1 day, the necessary work force is available, as well as equipment needed to load and unload shipments, and capacity is sufficient. Therefore, there is no reason for back-ups.

In response to a question about whether there are sufficient customs stations, the director of the Saudi customs authority said that the airport stations are sufficient and meet all the needs for commercial activity and importing and exporting. The airport customs stations, for example, include King Khalid airport in Riyadh, King 'Abd-al-'Aziz airport in Jiddah, Zahran airport, Medinah airport, al-Qasim airport, Tabuk airport, Abha' airport, and many land and sea transit ports, including Dammam, Jubayl, al-Khubar, Ra's Tannurah, al-Khafaji, (al-Raqs), Jadidah, 'Ar'ar, Halat 'Ammar, al-Hadithah, al-Durrah and Jizan, and the ports of Jiddah, Yanbu' and al-Khadra', which add up to a total of about 30 land, sea and air customs stations.

SYRIA

DAR'A CITY COUNCIL REPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS OF 1984 PROJECTS

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 24 Dec 84 p 3

[Article by Muhammad 'Id Musa: "Dar'a City Council Will Review Results of Year's Plan, Ask Companies To Improve Performance"]

[Text] The Dar'a City Council for Local Administration devoted most of its sixth and final regular session of this year to evaluating its plan of action in all fields. It made the decisions necessary to overcome all of the obstacles facing some aspects of its investment plan.

At the beginning of the meeting, Engineer 'Adnan Abu-al-Nujum, chairman of the council, reviewed the articles of the executive office's report. He reviewed for the council the work, implementation and accomplishments of the investment plan for 1984 and the difficulties which faced some of the work.

In his speech at the opening of the session, he confirmed that work methods on projects assigned to branches of public sector companies were unsatisfactory and did not go along with the desires and ambitions involved in completing the projects according to the contracts signed between the council and branches of the companies to supply the widest services to the citizens.

The projects for which the council chairman asked the companies to improve their performance include the memorial to the martyrs of the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party, popular housing, the business complex, and meat market and the first segment of sewers for the city.

Projects which are progressing satisfactorily are: modern lighting for the access roads into the city, 80 percent complete; paving and asphalt work, 100 percent complete; sewer lines in Wadi-al-Zaydi, 85 percent complete; maintenance of popular organizations, almost complete.

Curbing and Sidewalk Work

In this field, the city of Dar'a has seen a qualitative leap. On the main and secondary streets and in the neighborhoods, 20,000 square meters of sidewalks and 10,000 meters of curbing were completed by city workers. Another 10,000 meters of curbing and 17,000 square meters of sidewalk were completed by contract with the private sector.

Also, 1,300 meters of curbing and 2,600 square meters of sidewalk were completed by the public sector, and the following islands for public gardens were completed by the municipal council: al-Muzayrib Road, the road going up to the eastern city, with central islands, the road going up to the western city, and by the side of the bridge of the municipality and the electricity administration, in addition to the Karak walls, for a total length of 3,500 meters.

The international highway was widened within the city and a waterfall and pond built along the road going up to the eastern city. Road construction and widening excavations are underway in the foothills of al-Karak, and road repairs are in progress at many sites in the city.

Public Gardens

The airport and al-Manshiyah gardens were developed, with drainage systems, curbing and a pond for each. Paving stones were laid for al-Misri and al-Manshiyah gardens, and work continues on other gardens in the city.

Water networks have been extended to the gardens and also to the islands at the entrances to the city. Forty-five thousand plants of different varieties have been purchased to be planted along the new sidewalks.

Studies

The executive office's report mentions the completion of the following studies: the study for the public garden along the Busra road beside the memorial to party martyrs; a study of widening the street opposite the officers club; a study of repairing and widening the al-Muzayrib road; a study of the area lying next to the industrial zone; a study of the sewer project for al-Bahhar district; and a study of the project for the main outlet of the sewer line, second stage.

The chairman of the city council mentioned that the third stage of the organizational plan of the city of Dar'a has not been concluded.

Costs of Projects

During 1984, expenditures were 21,932,000 Syrian pounds, while the council's income was 18,694,000 Syrian pounds. The council has accounts worth about 6 million Syrian pounds, and the executive office's report on this matter confirmed that it is expected that the income of the receipts will equal the value of the aforementioned accounts.

Percentage of Completion

The city council's investment plan for this year is 90 percent complete.

Committee Reports, Reviews and Recommendations

During the meetings of its session, the council discussed the reports submitted by its committees concerning building code violations, public health, stray livestock and service utilities.

There were reviews of decisions made by the council at previous sessions and the extent to which these decisions have been carried out. The council recommended that implementation of all resolutions in many fields be followed, and it agreed that all violations should be recorded.

Land located next to the greengrocers company was chosen for the site of a temporary Friday market. The council also approved an awareness campaign to combat rodents, with distribution of posters and leaflets with suitable slogans.

The council approved the proposals of some members to repair the local buses, purchase new buses, continue to plant trees in the city (especially along the new roads), and continue to develop playgrounds.

7587

CSO: 4404/170

SYRIA

AGRICULTURAL BANK BRANCH GRANTS LOANS IN IDLIB

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 24 Dec 84 p 3

[Interview with Ahmad Sardar, manager of Idlib Agricultural Bank; date and place not specified]

[Text] It appears that the chilly atmosphere which envelops the agricultural bank building in Idlib is a result of the failure of the construction company to complete the heating system there, claiming that parts are unavailable in the local market. However, this has not prevented the workers in the bank from performing their duties with regard to the farmers with whom they do business.

According to Ahmad Sardar, bank manager, they have been able to get the debt collection ratio of the bank to 99.69 percent. He added: "The sums due for payment from the beginning of this year until the end of November are 4,836,199 Syrian pounds from the private sector, of which 4,816,709 pounds were collected. Debts of the cooperative sector were 7,070,486 pounds, of which 7,052,986 pounds were collected. Total debts were 11,906,685 Syrian pounds, of which 11,896,695 pounds were collected. We believe that this considerable percentage has come as a result of efforts of our workers, on the one hand, and the farmers' understanding of their obligations, on the other.

5,250 Farms Utilize Bank's Services

"As to loans granted by the bank during that period, there were 10,135,000 pounds in intermediate term loans, 8,205,000 in short-term loans, and 1,200,000 in long-term loans, for a total of 19,560,000 Syrian pounds for the cooperative and private sectors. There were 2,900 cooperatives among the 5,250 farms which took advantage of this service.

"There is no doubt that these loans played an effective part in the deep and comprehensive development of the agricultural situation in the province.

"We have also delivered 135 imported cattle, 127 70-horsepower and sixteen 110-horsepower tractors, and 11 reapers, while 87 projects were financed in the various districts of the province, including artesian well projects. Also, more than 11 million Syrian pounds were paid through us to the farmers by the organizations concerned for the value of their cotton, potato and wheat crops."

Control Materials Available

[Question] What about control materials?

[Answer] We can say that we have enough control materials to supply the needs of the agricultural situation for the different seasons. We have no shortages or crises, and we are providing these substances according to the actual need for them, because the general administration has a great desire to ensure that they are available at the proper times. This is especially true since the farmers realize the importance of using these substances. For example, we sold 2,900 tons of "super," 1,800 tons of urea, 210 tons of sulfate, 1,200 tons of "kalnitro," and 45 tons of nitrate, for a total of about 3.5 million Syrian pounds.

We also sold 128 tons of cotton seed and 16,200 new sacks and 5,500 used sacks for cotton, in addition to 97 tons of wheat seed. Also, 915 tons of potato seed were recorded for the spring crop cycle.

We must mention that the conference of agricultural bank directors which was held in our province had a positive effect by unifying work methods and simplifying steps for obtaining loans to serve the farmers, and this helped our work progress. In addition, we were aided by our cooperative relationship with the agricultural branch banks in the province, on the one hand, and the peasants federation and its cooperatives, on the other.

Cold Again

[Question] Is your work facing any difficulties?

[Answer] Well, we have no difficulties in the usual sense of the word. However, we are concerned, as are the inspectors, about the cold temperatures in the building, since the heating system has not been completed by the construction company in the province, although we have spoken with them repeatedly. They say that some of the equipment is unavailable.

This situation is really intolerable, especially in a new building. However, that certainly will not be reflected in our work while we look for a solution. We are also concerned about the lack of means of transportation. We have only one vehicle for everything, and there is no doubt that our work is affected in one form or another when it is out of service. Besides that there are no problems. We believe that if we link some subjects in the general administration and obtain prior approval for them, we can ensure the good progress of our work and avoid making any mistakes which cannot be corrected.

7587
CSO: 4404/170

SYRIA

AL-HASAKAH AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL REVIEWS DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 31 Dec 84 p 3

[Article by 'Adil Hadidi: "Agricultural Subcouncil To Review Development Plan, Take Steps To Implement It"]

[Text] The last meeting of the agricultural subcouncil, which is headed by Husayn Hasun, governor of al-Hasakah, was well-attended by all of those concerned with the agricultural sector in the province, including all of the agricultural subcommittees and agencies concerned with the agricultural sector. At the beginning of the meeting, the governor spoke about the importance of holding these expanded sessions to review and discuss the difficulties and obstacles opposing the progress of producing the agricultural crops listed in the agricultural production plan, to search for quick and beneficial solutions to move forward with work in the agricultural sector, and to raise the level of production. He then spoke at length about the role and function of the directors of the districts, who were given the task by Law 14 for 1985 of chairing the agricultural subcommittees in the districts and subdistricts.

These committees can play a prominent role in the province of al-Hasakah, since it is an agricultural province and agriculture there is the backbone of agriculture in the country. Any inadequacy in achieving the goals of the agricultural plan, especially in this province, will have a negative reflection on the agricultural sector and agricultural production in the country. The governor explained that the role and functions of these agricultural subcommittees are field duties, and consequently they bear the complete responsibility for achieving the agricultural production plan, with the participation of all of the agencies concerned.

Steps To Achieve Agricultural Plan for Planting Vetch

The council then reviewed the steps required to distribute vetch seeds to the peasants and farmers to bring about complete cultivation of the acreage indicated in the province's plan (42,636 hectares). This was done in light of the report submitted by the Administration of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform and the branch of the fodder organization in al-Hasakah. This report stated that 3,386 tons of vetch seeds were received by the fodder organization branch. Of this quantity, 707 tons were sold, and 2,681 remain. From these statistics, it is clear that sales of vetch seed are very slow, and the necessary

steps must be taken to distribute the seed to the peasants and farmers with the utmost speed to ensure that it is planted by the end of this month.

In light of that, the council decided to instruct the branches of the agricultural banks in the province to refuse to grant winter loans until the farmers and peasants have received the vetch seed set aside for them. It also decided to authorize the agricultural subcommittees in the districts and sub-districts to take the steps necessary to compel the peasants and farmers to accept the seeds set aside for them. The committees are to prepare lists with the names of farmers who refuse to accept seeds so that the necessary steps can be taken regarding them. Also, the peasants federation was instructed to send the heads of the peasants leagues to urge the heads of the cooperatives to accept the vetch seed. The state farm installation in Malikiyah was authorized to farm its 12,000 dunums. Also, the project of the Syrian-Libyan Company in Ras al-'Ayn was authorized to farm its 7,500 dunums.

Review of Marketing of Cotton, Maize

Next the council reviewed the marketing of the cotton crop. The head of the peasants federation in the province noted that cotton prices in the province have dropped considerably, and he suggested that these prices should be reconsidered. The manager of the cotton gin in al-Hasakah responded, tracing the causes of the lower prices for cotton shipped recently to the immaturity of this cotton and the fact that it was not suitable for ginning. After discussion of the subject, a wire was sent to the General Administration of the Cotton Ginning and Marketing Organization. The council then turned to a review of progress in marketing the maize crop in light of reports submitted by the agricultural administration and the fodder organization stating that 2,024 tons of maize had been delivered to the branch of the fodder organization, when it had expected to receive 3,000 tons after bad weather conditions. There is acreage which was planted late and is still at the stage of green growth, and it cannot yield production. The members of the subcommittees in the districts asked that the fodder organization be ordered to turn over the maize crop no matter how damp, since all of the quantities of maize now present but undelivered exceed a 30 percent moisture level. The heads of the agricultural subcommittees also asked that the maize be disbursed to delivery centers, not centrally from the fodder organization as is now the case.

The director of the fodder organization stated that the organization cannot hand over maize with more than 30 percent moisture. This percentage is set by the Supreme Agricultural Council, and if this council increased the percentage of moisture allowed, the organization could purchase one ton of maize at a price of only 200 Syrian pounds.

After extensive discussion, the council decided to authorize the branch of the fodder organization to hand over the remaining quantities of maize, even with 35 percent moisture. It also decided to urge the peasants and farmers to participate and cooperate with the agricultural departments, counseling units, peasants leagues, the branch of the agricultural mechanization organization, and the mechanical service facility to exceed their production of maize and deliver it as quickly as possible to the fodder organization branch.

Review of Movement To Promote Use of Imported and Disinfected Wheat Seed,
Animal Resource Situation

The council was then informed about the movement to promote the use of improved, sifted and disinfected wheat seed in the province. It was reported that 2,500 tons of the seeds have been sold to the peasants and farmers by the organization's branch, which still has 8,200 tons.

The agricultural subcommittees were charged with ensuring that the peasants and farmers plant the improved wheat seeds on irrigated land for the 1984-85 season, in implementation of the Supreme Agricultural Council's decision, and seeing that the remaining seeds are disposed of. The council was also informed of the steps which have been taken by the Administration of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform in the province for the 33rd Arbor Day celebration. Along Abyad Road and Dayr al-Zawr Road, 150,000 holes have been prepared to be planted with small shrubs.

Finally, the council reviewed the general condition of livestock resources in the province. The animals are very healthy, and there are no widespread contagious diseases. Fodder supplies are very low and are insufficient for the minimum nutritional needs of the animals. If this situation continues, it will lead to dangerous complications which will have health and production implications for the animal resources.

7587

CSO: 4404/170

IRAN

THREE EXPELLED FROM KUWAIT TELL OF TORTURE

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 28 Feb 85 p 24

/Text/ AZADEGAN morning news section-- Three Iranians who were expelled from Kuwait yesterday morning participated in a news conference, which was attended by the domestic and foreign correspondents, and gave detailed explanations about their torture and expulsion from this sheikdom.

According to our correspondent, at this news conference, which was held in the local Workers' House, one of the expelled Iranians, who introduced himself as Akbar, went on to explain about his detention and the way he was interrogated: "We were detained one afternoon and they took us to an unknown location. After we got there they started beating us up. We asked them why are you beating us? The first question they asked us was: Whose followers are you? I told them it was none of their business who I follow. They started to beat us up again. After the first night I asked them to let me inform my family of my whereabouts since they don't know Arabic. They didn't pay the slightest attention to our requests. At any rate, for seven days they kept beating us up in their SAVAK compound and thereafter one of them asked us: Which party do you belong to? I asked, what do you mean? He said, are you members of Khomeyni's party? I told him I had not ever heard of such a party--and I don't think such a party exists either in Kuwait or in Iran. His second question was: Do you distribute magazines? I told him, show me one such magazine which you have seen me distribute or claim that I've given to somebody. After this interrogation session, they transferred us to their central prison. In that prison I was confined to a small cell about 130 by 150 centimeters--I could hardly breath. Behind locked doors we had no contacts with each other. After about two and a half or three months I fell ill--so bad that they had to take me to a hospital. After some medication in the hospital they took me back to the prison cell again. Thereafter, I made a will and told them at least let my family know that I won't be leaving here alive. In any case, I complained and expressed my objection to any body who came to talk to me. I told them if they thought that we had done somethin wrong why didn't they execute us. Why are you feeding us inside these cells? The kind of food you are feeding us is just not fit to eat--we are wasting away. Our complexion had turned so pale and yellow that they even used to tell us we looked like orange. First, before my detention I had a little

problem with my neck for which I have all the documents regarding the surgery and so forth. Because we had to sleep on the floor my neck got even worse. Second, as a result of all the beating, one of my ears started to bleed. I asked them several times to take me to a doctor and they never listened. Now I am hard of hearing. Thereafter, we decided to go on a strike. Then they took us to court. According to Kuwaiti judicial laws they had to appoint or provide a substitute attorney in 24 hours, and this is something that our attorney mentioned to the court. In addition, anyone who is in a situation like ours has to be brought before a court of law within six months, although we were there over eight months, it was only after we went on strike that they decided to take us to the court no matter how many times before the strike we had asked them to do so. After we were acquitted in the court they took, us back to the prison and after a while they expelled us from Kuwait."

Another participant at the news conference who had been expelled from Kuwait, in answer to the question from one of the correspondents regarding the number of Iranian workers in Kuwait said: "We don't have any reliable statistics, but there certainly are many Iranian workers there. No matter where they are they are under some kind of torture right now. The Kuwaiti officials try to expel the Iranians under any excuse they can think of. Even if they cannot come up with some plausible excuse, they will plant a gas cylinder in somebody's room or apartment and accuse him of plotting or trying to blow up some place."

"I can say that there are about 20,000 Iranian workers in Kuwait. Of course you cannot consider many of those people as foreign workers since among those individuals there are many who have been in Kuwait 20 or 30 years now. As you have noticed neither myself nor my friends can speak fluent Persian. I personally, have resided in Kuwait for 25 years with all the pertinent and official documents and work permit from our own Department of Labor."

Regarding the nature of the work done by the Iranian workers in Kuwait he said: "As you said just plain workers--some of them are tailors, some masons, the same type of work which our Iranian workers do at home."

The third participant at the news conference who had been expelled from Kuwait, in answer to our correspondent who asked him about his opinion regarding the way our authorities should approach or deal with this situation said: "The Iranian government must follow up on these issues, not only our own case, but many other cases which occurred before ours or were going on during our confinement or after we were expelled from there. They have expelled many people who have all the legal documents. If the Iranian government decides to remain silent and do nothing about what is going on, they should officially announce that all the Iranians who are working in Kuwait should return to Iran."

We don't say that the government should defend someone who has done something wrong. Nothing of that sort, however, there are cases such as a 65-year old, innocent man who has been sentenced to 10 years in prison just because he is a Muslim or a Shiite.

There were some individuals who supported the Islamic Republic, or some people who had a picture or two of Khomeyni and wound up in prison for 13 months-- and they did not even know Persian. Every day there are many people who arrive either by plane or by sea in Bushehr and who have been tortured two or months before they have been expelled from there and nobody ever finds out about them."

12719

CSO: 4640/491

IRAN

MESHKINI: IRAQ WOULD COLLAPSE IF UNPROTECTED BY SUPERPOWERS

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 1 Mar 85 p 2

/Text/ Qom--IRNA: Yesterday morning in Qom, members of the Islamic Revolution Mobilization Guards Corps and Training Affairs from various parts of the country met with Ayatollah Meshkini, head of the Assembly of Experts and the Friday imam of Qom.

According to IRNA correspondent, in this meeting, which was attended by many people from various walks of life, Ayatollah Meshkini while indicating the self-sacrifice and generosity of the powerful combatants of Islam on the battlefields and the role of the family in bringing up such children stated in a speech: "Praise upon the chaste and continent mothers who by proper training and upbringing present such devoted and faithful children who so unselfishly sacrifice their lives for Islam, carry out God's commandments and stand against the enemies of God. As a result of your correct and proper upbringing and observance of the Islamic veil--you sisters--our youth were able to succeed in driving out more than 70,000 Americans from the country and prevail in bringing about an Islamic and Koranic rule." As regards the same topic he said: "Where do you know of a society whose youth believe so firmly in Islam and whose battlefronts are scenes of prayers. After we read the wills of our beloved martyrs we find the profundity and depth of their exalted soul and their love and devotion for Islam. Praise upon those proud mothers who have brought up such noble children and presented them to Islam."

Continuing his speech, Ayatollah Meshkini mentioned the multilaterally supported Ba'thist Zionist regime of Iraq and said that if the superpowers, who are committers of crimes, did not support Iraq for one minute our Islamic warriors would be able to annihilate Saddam and his infidel party in a single day. With such an annihilation, the oppressed nations, particularly the Muslims of Lebanon, Afghanistan and Palestine would be victorious. In such a case, you can rest assured that neither Mitterand nor Reagan's charm would have the slightest effect versus the power of Islam and the Muslim people. In conclusion, Ayatollah Meshkini, while pointing to the issue of addiction as an issue of political significance in our society and the need of a decisive encounter by the authorities and the general public with this destructive and pernicious nuisance, expressed

his thanks and appreciation to the disciplinary agents, particularly the Islamic Revolution Committees in their effort to uncover and arrest narcotics smugglers and said: "Today, the issue of addiction in our revolutionary society is a political issue. It is another war which has been imposed on us by the superpowers.

"I ask all my brothers and sisters to introduce and report addicts and narcotics smugglers to the disciplinary officials so that we will be able to wipe out this destructive nuisance from our country and thwart this plot of the superpowers and their agents."

12719

CSO: 4640/493

IRAN

MUSAVI: WORLD DESPAIRED IN FAILING TO DEFEAT REGIME

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 1 Mar 85 p 2

/Text/ A gathering composed of citizens, responsible officials of various departments and revolutionary organs of Faridan township together with Hojjat ol-Eslam Kyan Ersi, representative of the people of this township in the Islamic Consultative Assembly met with Mr Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister on Thursday morning.

In this meeting Mr Musavi, while pointing to the effects of the Islamic cultural revolution and the close relations of the citizens and responsible authorities stated: "Whenever we meet and converse with the officials of other countries we detect very little sense of modesty or humility towards the people of their nation by these officials. When we talk about poverty and deprivation of the people of the world versus the role of the superpowers in causing such nations to lag behind, these gentlemen usually sympathize with us. However, whenever the talks take on an official form they either support the East or the West. Likewise, when the time comes to cast their vote in an international forum, they support either of the two pivotal powers of arrogance. It is very important for us to evaluate the reason for the abjectness of such responsible officials versus the superpowers. Among the reasons that we discover with respect to this issue is their lack of sharing or enjoying a firm religious belief and also the dependency of the political life of their regime on the support and protection by the superpowers."

Mr prime minister added: "Such reactions are encountered very often at various international conferences. A general evaluation readily proves that the approach of the Iranian delegation to such issues is one hundred percent different from the approach of members of other delegations. The reason is that our delegation members have had no tendency to officially withhold announcing the independent stance of our country at any of these international meetings. This is all because of our reliance on our nation and because we feel sure that this kind of strength and power is worthier than either the power of the United States or that of the Soviet Union's. The power of the Islamic Republic system has drawn from the people in the world today and we duly sense the role of this power in all our external relations. As long as the responsible authorities of the country stay in contact with the people and show a modicum of modesty and humility

toward them, such a power which comes or derives from the people can very well be used in the expansion of Islamic ideology, the message of the Islamic revolution and its independence in today's world." The prime minister went on to say that what really scares the superpowers is the general alertness of our nation, which is the most vigilant nation on earth. Our people are the kind of individuals who will defend the truth to the bitter end. Thus, for this reason the superpowers have reconsidered their position toward us. On any international issue, particularly the issues which deal with the Middle East, the superpowers wait for the reaction of the Islamic Republic. There was a day when the superpowers only feared our outcries for Islam, however, these days they are frightened by the practical effects of those outcries, which have expanded throughout the world.

Regarding the escape of the Zionist forces from Lebanon Mr Musavi stated that the despicable withdrawal of Israel from Lebanon is something unprecedented in the history of this cancerous tumor. It is the power of faith of the Islamic revolution which has travelled far beyond the borders. The alertness and perseverance of our nation on the war fronts and its ability to ward off crises in many different fields has helped to guarantee the resistance of the Lebanese people, the vigilance and promptness of all Muslim nations and all the oppressed people of the world. Our fight with the United States, even our struggles in Latin America have set a pattern as admitted by Reagan himself. This is all the result of the peoples' participation and their presence on the scene.

The prime minister also said that the number of heads of states who extended their congratulations to the officials of the Islamic Republic on the occasion of the anniversary /11 February, 1985/ in comparison to previous years is something quite unparalleled. This matter indicates that despite the persistent hostility of the superpowers and their agents towards the Islamic Republic, the whole world has despaired in failing to defeat this regime. At present, all the people in every walk of life throughout the nation are in charge of guarding or protecting the revolution, and in this respect, the alertness of the nation is the best guarantee for the success of this movement.

In conclusion, the prime minister stressed that the people of Faridan region and Esfahan Province in particular have made great efforts in the realization of our revolution. With due regard to their struggles in West Azarbaijan, Kordestan, south and southwestern regions of the country these people are the guiding lights for the whole nation. The struggles of the people of Esfahan and all the nation is the result of the existence of the profound values of Islam among our people. I hope that God will help us ever more with His blessings and grace.

12719

CSO: 4640/493

IRAN

KHAMENE'I URGES PARTY MEMBERS TO SUPPORT GOVERNMENT

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 18 Feb 85 p 3

[Text] After the broadcast of tapes of speeches by martyr Beheshti and martyr Bahonar, a message from the secretary general of the Islamic Republican Party, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, was read. The message states: Undoubtedly, the global enemies of the revolution will continue to find ways to destroy or neutralize this revolution. The increasing awareness of the sincere and truthful forces is required. We are witnessing signs that indicate the enemy's hope that the revolution will crumble internally and the enemy's overall investment in this prospect. The enemy has set its hopes on the breakdown of unity, the crumbling of the moral foundations, the despair of the people, the elimination of mutual trust, the devaluation of the authentic values, the goals of the revolution being forgotten, the entrapment by baser goals, and the growth of the selfishness and comfort-seeking of officials, all of which are, in fact, the most dangerous of illnesses. If they spread, deadly blows will be inflicted on the revolution. The revolution must make great investments to counter these deadly sicknesses and to safeguard the society and the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Another part of this message states: We have always declared that this party is not an organization for gaining power and controlling the Majlis and the government, but is responsible for guiding the masses of the people, helping their ideological unity and strengthening the ideological and political ties among them. From the beginning, the party was formed with this idea and goal. It has acted on this policy in the past and continues today, too, to insist on this idea.

Animosity Towards the Party

In another part of his message, the secretary general of the Islamic Republican Party pointed out: The active and effective role of the party in the past has provoked the deep hostility of the enemies of the revolution and has caused them to accuse and commit crimes against the party. Today and in the future as

well, if the party wants to continue to do its divine and revolutionary duty, the same attacks and hostilities must be expected. The important point is that in order to inflict its blows, the enemy might make use of our own hands and true slogans. In the past, too, true words expressed with false intentions by alert enemies or unaware friends have been heard and they will be repeated in the future as well.

Another part of the message states: Our model and instructions are always the views and opinions of the imam and leader of the Islamic nation. The statements and directives of our beloved and revered imam determine our line and actions without any analysis or justification. Today, pressure groups and nameless but active gangs exist who wish, through their hostilities, to force the party to assume a reactionary position and engage in aimless and futile struggle. There are also those who have engaged in injecting conflict and divisions within the party. There are also individuals who accuse the party of having violated its positions and, with accusations of this kind, devalue its sincere efforts. None of these actions--which at times are evil intentioned and at times the result of lack of awareness--should prevent the brothers and sisters who have accepted membership in this organization with a sense of divine duty from doing their main duties toward the revolution and force them to engage in deviant conflicts and arguments.

Recommendation to the Members of the Party

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i then recommended to the party members the observation of certain points, some of which are as follows:

What is most revered in the party are the goals and regulations. All the divisions, branches and offices of the party must give priority to party regulations over personal inclinations.

The offices of the party throughout the country must avoid local quarrels and make efforts to create unity among the people and the opposing factions. Protecting and respecting religious scholars, the honorable Friday imams and government officials in the location are the most useful means for creating unity.

Supporting the government of the Islamic Republic and other institutions and organizations in charge is a duty which the imam has emphatically recommended to everyone, and the brothers and sisters in the party throughout the country are responsible for carrying out this duty.

The second congress of the party is one of the vital and determining events. Holding of this congress and ensuring its safety and fruitfulness are duties shared by all the cadres and members. Any kind of disruption in the safety of this congress

is an obstacle to the continuation of the life of the party. The brothers and sisters must prepare themselves from now on to actively participate in the congress.

At the threshold of the second congress of the party there is the expectation of every kind of rumor spreading and climate creating against the party. With dignity and observing religious standards, the brothers and sisters throughout the country must avoid any sort of quarrel which might secure the wishes of the enemies of Islam.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI and other party publications must be mouthpieces and propagators of the party's determined goals and protect the totality and internal unity of the party. All the offices and agencies of these publications in the capital and throughout the country are responsible to observe this principle and work hard to carry it out.

After reading the message of the secretary general of the Islamic Republican Party, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri, the minister of the interior and a member of the central council of the Islamic Republican Party, referred to the message of the secretary general of the party and said: Our aim is to be present on the scenes of the revolution and as a result, to protect Islam and the revolution from deviations. We have a mission conferred on us by the Koran.

Pointing out the importance of and the necessity for the organization of the Hezbollah forces, he said: We must be determined and decisive in being members of the party and must take our standards into consideration. We must move ahead with a comprehensive vision and use moderation in our behavior. The members of the Islamic Republican Party must be appealing, good tempered and humble and a model for others. They must reduce the differences in taste to a minimum.

10,000

CSO: 4640/434

IRAN

KHOMAYNI: INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS MUST NOT HAVE PARTY AFFILIATION

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 11 Mar 85 p 22

/Text/ In a meeting with Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi-Reyshahri, minister of information and security, the deputies, director generals and the supervisors of this ministry in Tehran and other cities, imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic yesterday morning while emphasizing the sensitivity of the intelligence issue in our country stated: "All the individuals who work in this ministry must not have any affiliation with any group or party since affiliation with a group leads to a practical and mental dependency which in itself is inconsistent with the nature of your job."

In another part of his statements, the leader of the revolution while stressing the matter of the investigation of the condition of the prisoners said: "Today, our nation is in need of intelligence and anybody who is more capable to do the job should participate in the work." According to our correspondent, in this meeting, first the minister of information and security delivered a report concerning the activities of his ministry to the imam of the nation, thereafter, imam Khomeyni made the following remarks:

"In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. One of the honors of the Islamic Republic is that some pious and responsible individuals and several clerical authorities work in this ministry. We all know Mr Reyshahri and we also know that his true calling is something else; however, serving Islam, which comes before anything else, has made him give up his original mission and carry on this sensitive pursuit. I personally thank all of you gentlemen who are, God willing, all responsible individuals. The issue of intelligence is one of the most important and sensitive matters which encompasses every aspect of the lives of the people. At all times you must keep in mind that God is omnipresent. One might be able to conceal something from everyone else, but one should know that nothing could be hidden from God and one will reap what one has sown.

"You ought to be very careful. Of course, everybody has to be attentive to what he does. However, since your job is a very sensitive kind of work, you ought to be extra careful. You must tell yourselves that no matter what I'm

doing, I'm in the presence of God. Another important matter is that all the individuals who work in this ministry should not be affiliated with any other group or party since affiliation with a group(s) leads to a mental and practical dependency, which in itself defeats the purpose of your job. All of you ought to be quite impartial. There ought not be any kind of friendship, enmity, acquaintance, or alienation involved in your kind of work. It is very dangerous not to heed this important matter. On the other hand, your efforts will be duly rewarded since you are working for Islam.

"You must think that if you could hide something today, what are you going to do tomorrow. The world is not going to stand still--whether it be for greedy individuals who want it all or the contented man who needs nothing at all--it will all pass. You ought to think of the life hereafter. God forbid, if someone follows his personal desires or motives, this is something very dangerous for both the self and the people. At first, before anybody else, the individual himself will be in danger, however, a human being is sometimes negligent. Affiliation with a group will naturally create some kind of dependency on that group, which very well could defeat the purpose of what your job calls for. Individuals who work in the Ministry of Information ought to be independent, purehearted and pious. I hope you all are like that and admonish your friends lest they step overboard. Lest, inadvertently they cause some innocent person trouble. As regards the prisoners whose names will be given to Mr Reyshahri, you should take speedier action so that no one is imprisoned without any reason. However, you ought to be careful in your dealing with the matters since you will be dealing with some hypocrites and such like people. You must be careful and know that today our nation is in need of information/intelligence. Any individual who is more capable of doing a better job ought to take part in doing so.

"We are duty bound by Islam to interfere in matters which involve Islam. Seclusion, retreat and praying will do no one good!

"We ought to follow the example of the prophets. The prophets were not in the habit of secluding themselves from the people. They were always with the people and whenever opportunity knocked, they grabbed the reign.

"Don't give in to diabolical temptations. One ought to act according to religious laws and do good. May God Almighty bestow strength, success and good health to all. May Imam of the Age protect you all."

IRAN

INTELLIGENCE MINISTER DESCRIBES OPERATION, GOALS, PROBLEMS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 18 Feb 85 p 2

[Interview with Minister of Information Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Reyshahri; date and place not specified]

[Text] Political service. The minister of information explained the operations and activities of the Ministry of Information since its establishment and announced the goals of the treacherous conspiracies of the majority Feda'i minigroup against the Islamic Republic, which were discovered and neutralized some time ago with the alertness of the Hezbollah nation and the intelligence network of 43 million members in a press, radio and television interview.

In this interview, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Reyshahri first referred to the role of intelligence and the intelligence system in the regime of the Islamic Republic and the harm resulting from the lack of a centralized intelligence system and said:

An intelligence system for a country is precisely like the nervous system of the body. If it were possible for the body to live without a nervous system, it would also be possible for a regime or a revolution to do so. Obviously, the better and more precisely the nervous system works, the better condition the body will be in. In the same way, the more perfect and the more precisely the intelligence system of a regime works, the better the leadership cadre of that regime will be able to advance the society and protect it from probable harm and threats.

He then referred to the damages resulting from the lack of a strong, organized intelligence system in the early years of the revolution. Expressing his sorrow at the martyrdom of many of the revered personalities who were targets of the sinister conspiracies of the agents of global oppression at that time, he explained the various stages of the formation of the Ministry of

Information and said: Since the time the hypocrites engaged in an armed struggle against the Islamic revolution, the necessity was felt for the creation of an organized, centralized organization which is able to anticipate and neutralize, through the necessary intelligence, the conspiracies of the counterrevolutionaries before they occur.

The minister of information added: Hence, the intelligence system of the Islamic Republic of Iran is formed from the heart of the revolution and the people. The revolution committees, the Guards Corps, and the prime minister's investigative office began a series of intelligence tasks. Although they did not have sufficient experience in this area, with the help of God, they were able to gain very valuable experience within a short period of time and to inflict severe and deadly blows on domestic counterrevolutionaries. Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri referred to the valuable services and self-sacrifice of the intelligence unit of the Guards Corps in this area and, expressing gratitude and praise for this unit, he explained the stages of the formation and organization of the Ministry of Information. He said: The establishment of the Ministry of Information is one of the greatest points of strength of the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Its intelligence organization takes the form of a ministry, not an agency. At present, the Majlis can interpolate the minister if necessary; however, if this organization were an agency, this would not be possible. As far as I know, except for one country in the world, there is no other country in which the intelligence system takes the form of a ministry. In most countries, the ministry of information is the same as our country's Ministry of [Islamic] Guidance. In any case, the issue of intelligence and the intelligence system throughout the world is not something that can be explained to the people or their representatives. The intelligence organizations of the world are directly administered under the supervision of the president, the king, or the most powerful person in the country and no one has the right to question such an agency. But in the regime of the Islamic Republic, intelligence is handled by a ministry, which indicates the full trust of the regime in its actions. Even the most secret acts can be explained to the people.

Reliance of the Ministry of Information on the People

Continuing his statements, the minister of information referred to the popularity of the Ministry of Information and said: Considering that the Ministry of Information has risen from the votes of the representatives of the people, on intelligence issues, the Ministry of Information is based on an intelligence service of 42 million. Even before the establishment of this ministry, in connection with intelligence issues, the people realized that they are in fact the source of information. The most important duty of the Ministry of Information is to collect

and follow up such information. Therefore, our Ministry does not require the deception used by other intelligence agencies in the world to obtain information.

Concerning the operations and activities of the Ministry of Information, Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri said: Although no more than six months have passed since the establishment of this ministry, the steps that have been taken in the course of this period by the Ministry of Information have exceeded the expectations of the counterrevolutionaries, who did not imagine that the formation and organization of this ministry would be so simple. But, thank God, all the evolutionary phases of this ministry, including the transfer of intelligence from sources such as the Guards Corps, has been carried out rapidly, and once again, the analyses of the counterrevolutionaries were futile. The Ministry of Information announced its readiness from 1 November 1984 to receive random information from organizations and this was carried out. At present, the Ministry of Information has established its organizations in all the provinces, cities and provincial cities, and affairs are being carried out normally. Also, in this connection, the Minister of Information thanked and praised the commander of the Guards Corps and other brother officials for their sincere cooperation and help in the transfer of information from the Guards Corps to the Ministry of Information.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri then emphasized the absence of political lines in the Ministry of Information and referring to the fact that, according to the law, those who work in this ministry must not be a member of any legal political group or organization, he said: Considering the important point that the Ministry of Information is one of the most sensitive, delicate and important ministries and is tied with the political fate and security of the country, it must by no means be involved in political lines. We have decisively stated this issue to the personnel of the ministry, from the very first day. At present, as well, if we realize that there are individuals in the Ministry of Information who are affiliated with or who support a political group, we will not allow them to continue their activities in this ministry and will decisively prevent any political ties.

Discovery of the Conspiracy of the Majority Minigroup

Following the statements of the minister of information, reporters asked questions. In response to a question by one of the reporters concerning the discovery of the conspiracy of the majority Feda'i minigroup and the arrest of a number of the members of this minigroup, Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri said: The organization of the majority Feda'i, the Keshtgar group, which is in fact the offspring of the Tudeh Party, thank God, suffered a deadly blow at the hands of the unknown soldiers of the Imam of

the Age and their conspiracy was neutralized. He added: The outlawed Tudeh Party and the majority [Feda'i], until the Tudeh Party was hit, condemned most of the actions and propaganda of the hypocrite organization, the Democratic Party and other counterrevolutionary minigroups. At times, in order to endear themselves and gain influence, they would offer outdated and random information about the hypocrites and their activities and considered the leadership of the hypocrites to be traitors. But, as the honorable speaker of the Majlis referred to in one of his Friday prayer sermons, these vociferous wolves have now, with a signal from the intelligence agencies of the West and the East, reached a common point and all of them, although they are opposites in nature, now speak of the "united people's front" in their publications. They have gathered together under the mistaken assumption that they will be able to strike a blow against the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: Considering the recent blow that the majority Feda'i suffered, an interesting point has not mentioned in the announcement published by the Ministry of Information, and that is the special group that this organization had. They had formed a group called the "special group," and a number of people were arrested in this connection. The important action of this group was that, under the guise of the Guards Corps and committees and with forged Guards Corps and committee identification cards, they engaged in robbing and plundering the people's property and carried out operations like those of the Cinderella gang. You see that an organization that supposedly wants to sacrifice itself for the people sets out against the oppressed and engages in robbery. Of course, their other objective was to stain the reputation of the revolutionary organizations, such as the Guards Corps, and make the people distrustful of the sacred uniform of the Guards Corps. In interrogating the arrested members of this minigroup, many issues have been clarified. In short, the Muslim people will be informed of the tactics of this heathen minigroup, their short-term and phase programs, and their strategic and ultimate goals.

The minister of information continued: The ideological lines of these minigroups are the same as those of the outlawed Tudeh Party. Since the Party suffered blows and was outlawed, the tactics of this organization have been as follows:

1. Ideological political confrontation with the government, the negation of authentic Islam, and the endorsement of imitation Islam.
2. Combining the propaganda and practical aspects of their course with those of the belligerent minigroups, the hypocrites, the Feda'is, the Democratic Party and others, inside and outside the country.

3. Spreading the slogan of the establishment of the united people's front, made up of the hypocrites, the Feda'is, the Democratic Party and a few other minigroups.
4. Efforts to end the war, fighting against the continuation of the war, provoking the military and the people against the war, and trying to impose the proposed peace by the superpowers on Iran.
5. Propagation and growth of comfort-seeking in the society.
6. Inculcation of the separation of the imam and the clerics from the people.
7. Coordination with the superpowers to confront the Islamic Republic.

Short-term and Phase Programs and Goals

1. Building and preserving cadres inside and outside the country.
2. Forming party core groups by observing the two principles of secret organizations--the lack of centralization and following the principle of the advantage of quality over quantity in the areas of infiltration, espionage and military organizations.
3. Efforts to obtain lost prestige, eliminate accusations, and neutralize the revealing interviews of the arrested leaders.
4. Establishment of a united people's front for the overthrow of the Islamic Republic of Iran by combining the minigroups.
5. Efforts to expose the government and the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran as belligerent and raising this issue.
6. [Suggesting] government strangulation and dependence on imperialism in all dimensions, as well as the domination of dependent capitalism.
7. Efforts to isolate the Islamic Republic internally and externally.
8. Escalation of conflicts and differences in all areas.
9. Creation, escalation and change of individual discontent to group movements in various dimensions among the strata, including the disruption of offices and organizations through infiltrating elements, especially in departments such as water, electricity and grains.

10. Efforts to remove the people from the scene of support for the Islamic Republic and gain the people's trust for the party and the proposed front.

11. Escalation of pressure on the government by the lower strata of the society.

Then, thanking the people and the intelligence service of 42 million for their alertness and also praising the services of the unknown soldiers of the Imam of the Age who have neutralized all these false suppositions, Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri responded to another question in connection with the success of the Ministry of Information in the area of discovery and neutralizing the counterrevolutionary conspiracies and said: Thus far, the Ministry of Information has been engaged in organizing itself, but during this short period, with the help of God, it has been able to inflict deadly blows on the counterrevolutionaries, many of which could not be published. For example, the hypocrites were supposed to create an incident on 11 February, which, thank God, this conspiracy was discovered and neutralized. The minister of information revealed that the hypocrites had intended to hijack two airplanes of the Islamic Republic of Iran and take them to Iraq, but they were identified and arrested before carrying out this treacherous act.

Also, many core members of the blind-hearted hypocrites who, from helplessness and subservience, engage in killing the innocent people in the streets were identified and arrested. Within the past few days, a core group which had carried out several terrorist acts in Tabriz was, thank God, eliminated by the able hands of the unknown soldiers of the Imam of the Age.

Concerning the treatment of that group of minigroups who have been released and after being released from prisons again commit other criminal acts, including street assassinations, the minister of information said: A number have taken advantage of the kindness and mercy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and engaged in terrorist acts. Thank God, a large number of them have been arrested. We hope, God willing, with the help to the Ministry of Information of the intelligence service of 42 million, we will be able to identify all of them and punish them for their actions. He said: On the initiative of the Ministry of Information, from now on they will not be released from prisons until it is proven that they have repented, and the Ministry of Information will play a role in this regard.

In response to a question by KEYHAN concerning some of the terrorists, Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri said: Today, in fact, the Islamic Republic does not have a problem called the hypocrites; at present, they are dead and have no base among the people. He declared the commitment of crimes such as street assassinations

and the killing of the oppressed and underprivileged people as a sign of the weakness and helplessness of the fugitive leaders of the hypocrites and said: Since the hypocrites have suffered blows from these oppressed people, in this way, they hope to take revenge; in addition, they want to prepare propaganda food for their masters abroad.

In response to another question by KEYHAN concerning the treatment by the Ministry of Information of political opponents, the minister of information said: The Ministry of Information does not bother political opponents, but the duty of this ministry is decisive confrontation with counterrevolutionaries and those who intend to conspire against the regime of the Islamic Republic.

In the conclusion of this interview, concerning the procedure for and role of the people in sending information, Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri said: A center has been established in the Ministry of Information and, God willing, its operational procedures will soon be officially announced. At present, the news headquarters of the Ministry of Information is responsible for receiving information from the people.

He added: As we all know, the people have an essential role in the intelligence system of the Islamic Republic of Iran and as the imam of the nation also said, all the people must be agents of the revolution. In regards to giving the necessary information, it is the national, popular and religious duty of the people to cooperate with the Ministry of Information.

10,000

CSO: 4640/436

IRAN

KHOMEYNI ASSURES HIS AUDIENCE OF SUCCESS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 26 Feb 85 p 18

[Text] Political service. A group of the personnel of the Army of the Islamic Republic and the Guards Corps met with Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, yesterday, on the anniversary of the proud and victorious Kheybar operations.

In this visit, Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, made the following speech:

In the Name of God the Compassionate and the Merciful

First, I want to tell you that I am happy to see you. You are the people who brought prestige to Islam and the country. Act with self-assurance and be assured that the center of power, which is God Almighty, will be generous to you.

Other powers are made of straw. It is the power of God that remains and God has promised that if you serve Him, He will make you victorious. Undoubtedly, you are now helping Almighty God, the Islamic country and Islam. When the revolution began, we had nothing. We gained victory empty-handed and, thank God, we have reached the point that today we are paid attention to by all the great powers. All the powers are trying to decide how to deal with this revolution.

Be assured that the great powers are incapable of doing anything. You are the army of God, and you will be victorious. Those who began their action in the beginning did so with heartfelt dignity and were not afraid of anything. The great powers are unaware of what you possess, which is faith in God. Hence, they constantly say that they have missiles. They have missiles, but they have no faith. You have faith and your hearts are bound to the source of light and power, an unbreakable tie. But they do not understand this. You are supported by the Imam of the Age, and since you possess the belief and power of the Imam of the Age,

you have everything. You have divine support. You must preserve this support. When we have such support, we are not afraid of anything. Now, the Islamic Republic means Islam. This is a great trust that we must protect. Be assured that you will be victorious and God will be content with you. Victory is what is intended by God, and not taking over a country. Islam is entrusted to us and we have a duty to protect it. Today, you are worshipping. Your centers are centers of worship. The same way that people circle around the Kaaba and worship, when you are in your trenches, you are engaged in worship. We defend Almighty God and Islam. Almighty God and Islam are undefeatable. I pray for you every night. God willing, you will be successful. May God protect you with His support and make you succeed in serving the people. May you be victorious, God willing. Peace and God's blessing upon you.

10,000

CSO: 4640/435

IRAN

MAJLIS ASSESSES STRONG, WEAK POINTS OF BUDGET BILL

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 21 Feb 85 p 18

[Text] KEYHAN political service. After nearly two months of discussions and examinations by the plan and budget committee and other Majlis committees, the 6,930 billion rial budget bill for the period 21 March 1985-20 March 1986 was discussed in the open session this week for a final decision.

In the course of this period, as a duty, KEYHAN examined the various dimensions of the budget bill with the help of a number of Majlis representatives. What follows today is the result of our conversation with the heads of the committees on commerce, labor, economics and finance and agriculture as well as five other Majlis representatives.

The question that we asked in this issue concerned the "summation and assessment of the strong and weak points of next year's budget bill."

It should be pointed out that in this issue we conclude our discussion on the budget bill.

Concerning the strong and weak points of the budget, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohsen Mojtahed-Shabastani, the head of the commerce committee and the representative of the people of Tehran in the Majlis said:

In my opinion, certain primary principles must be observed in the budget. One is a balance between revenues and expenditures, which must be devised so as to produce no budget deficit at all, or should there be an emergency, the budget deficit must be minimal, because the budget deficit is one of the main causes of inflation and breaks the back of the economy of the country. Another is not relying on a single oil product economy and the development of non-petroleum exports. Third is offering encouragement, giving directions, and making agriculture the

center of the economy, bringing the country to the borders of self-sufficiency. The fourth is directing the society on the whole towards production and fighting a consumer culture. Sixth is to pay more attention to development and construction, reducing the current expenditures of the country and increasing the developmental budget according to careful planning. The 1985-86 budget bill, which has been approved by the Cabinet and sent to the Majlis, reveals that, unfortunately, little attention has been paid to the above-mentioned principles and significant problems and weaknesses are seen in it. At the same time, there are strong points which I will explain. Of course, what I have to say concerns the bill presented by the government and not what was ratified by the honorable plan and budget committee, in which certainly the necessary changes and improvements are made. The weak points will be mentioned in summary along with a few other issues. (1) A balance has not been drawn between the revenues and expenditures of the country, and a worrisome budget deficit is apparent. The plan and budget committee must decisively deal with this problem and reduce the budget deficit as much as possible.

(2) In order to solve the problem of inflation, usually the three factors of a production increase, reduction in the volume of cash flow and capital circulating in the hands of the people, and creating a change in the system and the consumer model are used. A study of all the notes reveals that no effective plan has been offered in these three areas, and the existing ailments of the society which result from inflation as well as the problem of unemployment will not be remedied with this bill. It is necessary to place more importance on investment for agricultural production in order to prevent the migration of the villagers to the cities and the capital. The means for production and the necessary resources should have been offered to the people to prevent them from going towards false jobs.

(3) In this bill, the current expenditures for the 1985-86 period, like those for this year, have increased greatly compared to the previous years, particularly prior to the victory of the Islamic revolution. During the period 21 March 1978-20 March 1979, the current expenditures were 1,380 billion rials, but in this year's budget, the current expenditures have been projected at approximately twice the above-mentioned figure, while we all know that all the waste, fraud and corruption of the past no longer exists. In terms of the personnel, too, according to the officials, we have an accumulation of forces in certain organizations and divisions and rather than new hiring and adding to the contractual workers, the policy of job transfers must be imposed in order to raise the salaries of the existing employees. The people must also be informed that instead of becoming employees to sit behind a desk, which is what some of our young

people want, they must engage in productive work so that, God willing, this Islamic nation will attain greatness.

(4) Note 2 of the bill requires permission to borrow from the Central Bank, the amount of which was 300 billion rials last year and has been changed to 200 billion rials. This is something to be thankful for. Note 5, which concerns funding for subsidized goods, must be resolved in a way that we would not face this amount of borrowing from the Central Bank. Subsidies must be modified. If there is no possibility to eliminate Note 2, it must at least be devised in a way that the above-mentioned ceiling is used only once a year, not as monthly revolving funds or several times a year.

(5) Another weak point of this bill, particularly Note 4, is that it does not concern the budget at all. There are perhaps 15 notes which should be omitted from the budget and presented to the Majlis as new bills or separate proposals.

(6) The budget bill and all of our planning must be devised with attention to the main issue of the war. Unfortunately, as much attention has not been paid to this essential issue as should have been. Of course, a budget has been anticipated for war expenditures, the war refugee foundation, and the reconstruction of the war-stricken regions. But what I want to say is that all plans must be carried out with the war as a central concern and the necessary precautions against what might happen to this country, which is the target of the hostilities of global oppression, must be taken. It is hoped that the Majlis, the honorable government and all the officials will pay more attention to this point. It is also necessary to add a note to this budget granting permission to the ministries and institutions concerning giving priority to war needs, so that their hands will be free when necessary. Now, I will point out some of the strong points.

(1) The bill places importance on plans for the development and reconstruction of villages and the necessary funds are allocated to the Reconstruction Crusade and other concerned organizations. It is hoped that, God willing, the destruction that was inherited from the previous regime as well as the effects of Saddam's crimes will be repaired and reconstructed as soon as possible and the condition of the oppressed villagers will improve, by the blessing of the Islamic government.

(2) The expenditures that are exempted from the law are controlled and supervised and certain regulations are devised for them, one of which is that the implementary bylaws of the above-mentioned notes must be approved by the Cabinet and a report on the operations must be submitted to the Majlis once every three months.

(3) Borrowing from the Central Bank has decreased compared to last year and if, God willing, this issue becomes possible by the end of the year and there is no need for amendments, permission, and so on, one would be very thankful.

(4) Making the developmental projects appropriate to the necessary resources. The start of new projects requires a study of equipment and resources as well as endorsements and approvals. Nevertheless, projects will no longer take several years. There are similar strong points in the bill, which, at present, there is no time to explain in detail. I hope that with the ratification of the direct tax bill, which, God willing, will be done in a few months, the tax system of the country will be modified, because just and Islamic taxes play an effective role in the national budget. Also, the ratification of the bill on the export and import regulations, which has gone through the first round of discussions in the commerce committee and, God willing, by the end of the year, will have gone through the second round of discussions and will be ratified by the Majlis, the situation with regard to national exports will thrive and improve. Considering the improvements and additions made in the committee, a change will take place in this area. Also, the final ratification of the bill on goods distribution will resolve some of the problems--with the hope of the final victory of the Islamic combatants and long life for the revered imam.

Chairman of Labor Committee

In connection with the strong and weak points of the budget, Hoseyn Kamali, the chairman of the Majlis committee on labor and social affairs, said:

In connection with the 1985-86 budget bill, what appear to be strong points are the efforts of the bill to reduce the budget deficit; its general direction in harnessing inflation; efforts in the reconstruction of productive, job-producing and rapid return projects; the elimination of excessive expenditures; efforts to expand non-petroleum exports and the decrease in the reliance on oil; and the next movement, being freed from a single product system. In the spirit of the issues mentioned, the bill also has certain problems. If carefully examined by the Majlis in regards to a practical basis and conforming the budget to the realities of the society and the general needs of the people, it may have fewer problems in implementation. Under the present circumstances, in order to reduce the budget deficit, by eliminating some of the unnecessary current and developmental budgets, the Majlis can reduce the amount of borrowing and the budget deficit and devise the bill on the basis of the needs of the Islamic society. In Note 70, with the increase in the number of members on the planning committee, in fact, consultation has expanded. Or, in Note 65, we see that if certain exemptions

concerning the increase of work and additional hours in connection with the government employees are discussed. Or, in Note 61, the relative income increase for some of the oppressed employees is discussed and the issue of the pressure of inflation among all the salaried strata is addressed. Or, in Note 60, the issue of the retirement and transfer of government employees is referred to and the direction given to government employees in regards to production centers is discussed. Of course, there are also notes, such as Note 19, which discuss the elimination of some of the workers, production forces or services due to automation. Or, there are Notes 33 and 45, which establish minimum wages and retirement pay. These few notes are the major negative points.

Chairman of Economic and Finance Committee

Concerning the strong and weak points of the budget bill, the chairman of the economic and finance committee said: The budget bill is devised every year by the Cabinet in order to regulate the revenues and expenditures of the government and is presented to the Majlis for ratification. Part of it concerns the monetary issues of the bill, which was examined in the economic and finance committee. Naturally, there are general points which are not unrelated to previous years. Firstly, what is expected of this bill, in addition to regulating the budget, is that it also be a plan. To some extent, the budget provides a kind of plan every year, but not as it should be. Of course, this year, the five-year plan has been examined and the imperfections and deficiencies have been taken into consideration. Some of these opinions were taken into consideration, but not as is expected. For example, in the five-year plan, the discussion on competent and specialized manpower was one of the essential discussions showing it has not been paid attention to very much in the annual programs. Also, in that five-year plan, the rate of population growth was one of the puzzles. Growth was calculated to be 3.1 to 5 or 6 percent. This problem has not been clarified yet. Naturally, in the annual programs and budget, this must be a completed discussion. On the whole, in the notes of this year's budget, in regards to aid to farmers, rural industries and agricultural products, a series of activities have taken place, which are reflected in Notes 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, and other notes with funds of 200, 50, 113, and 20 billion rials. This shows that the country wants to place its monetary and financial power at the disposal of agriculture. Another strong point is the raising of revenues through taxes and other sources. The revenues mentioned, except for tax revenues, consist of oil revenues, which we do not consider real revenues; revenues obtained from the sale of monopolies; profits from the shares in such concerns as companies and organizations; and revenues from services, the sale of goods, and judicial services of registration and prosecutors' offices; the implementation of

Article 63 of the law for labor and law enforcement services; the issuance of passports; extension services; revenues from the insurance premiums of collected aid and other revenues, which can be mentioned as strong points. But, in connection with the weak points, it can be said that first of all, the level of current expenditures has increased compared to previous years. In the 20 categories included in the current expenditures, the largest portion belongs to personnel expenditures. Not all of these additions in the expenditures can be considered in terms of increased salaries alone. Of course, with the developmental expenditures, hidden current expenditures in place of developmental ones are seen. In some instances, in the categories of developmental expenditures, the purchase and storage of goods and equipment are included, which absorb developmental expenditures but are in fact not developmental. Here, I must say, the only sources of control over the quality of developmental expenditures are the auditing organizations and the accounting court. Unfortunately, this is not carried out properly and our budget is by no means dispensed in the true sense. Therefore, this weakness remains as before.

Another issue concerns the notes which are exceptions to the general accounting law. The basic problem in regards to all of these exceptions is that the reasons for them are not clear. The accounting law has several articles and paragraphs and every organization exempts its expenditures from a particular perspective by making use of this law.

The rule is that every organization report that particular part of the accounting law which it considers applicable. Among other things that must be done is to modify and make use of the existing excessive manpower in our executive organizations who have nothing to do. This is the reason for the increase in current expenditures. They must be employed in useful tasks and productive projects. In any case, keeping excessive personnel in the organizations often disrupts sound and useful work in those organizations. Also, the elimination of a part of the subsidy for goods which are peculiar to a stratum, particularly the high-income strata of the society, seems necessary. Encouraging productive work has been reflected to some extent in some of the budget notes, but at the same time, due to the weakness of programs and the lack of clarity regarding the responsibility of the implementors, the funds which are intended for production are not spent properly in practice.

If the increase in the revenues for the institute for industrial standards and research indicates an increase in efforts regarding industrial and technical production and the increase in the number of agreements in principle is beneficial for productive work, there is reason for hope.

Note 68 and similar notes concerning the control of illegal land ownership and the use of a correct housing policy are positive points in this bill. However, companies, which can often be a good source of revenue for the government, often show false profits and their production is not controlled in terms of quantity and quality. The lack of control over the price of raw materials and workers' wages and consequently the cost of the product for the production complexes results in our auditing organizations and the accounting court not having the necessary controls. Naturally, when prices are not controlled, planning will not be proper either.

Lack of clarity in regards to the level and regulations on salaries and incomes of salaried persons in government organizations has caused the rejection of a large number of our experts who are generally working in the private organizations. However, in practice, in order to employ the experts needed, the government is forced to employ them at open, non-government wages. All of these ideas should be considered in the annual plan and budget. We felt that the major problem in examining the five-year plan was that the planners should have revealed their goals, methods and policies in a one-year plan congruent with the five-year plan.

Chairman of Agriculture Committee

Seyyed Javad Angji, chairman of the agriculture and rural development committee and representative of the people of Tabriz to the Majlis, said concerning the strong and weak points of next year's budget bill: As you know, 50 percent of our economy depends on agriculture; therefore, it is appropriate to pay special attention to agriculture. The revered leader, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, and other officials have also emphasized this issue. Unfortunately, in the 1985-86 budget, similar to the budgets for the periods 21 March 1983-20 March 1984 and 21 March 1984-20 March 1985, no priority seems to have been given to agriculture. For example, if we look at the percentage of the budget allocated to the agricultural sector in economic affairs, we see that the agricultural sector is placed after water, electricity, roads and industries. This indicates that the issue of agriculture has been raised only in the form of slogans, but in practice, we have no action in this case. This in itself is questionable. Another weak point of this budget is the difference between the developmental budgets for cities and villages. With a little attention, we realize that this trend will escalate the move from villages to cities. Another weak point of this bill is the projection of revenues which seem unlikely to be gained. Among them are business taxes, which have reached from 30 billion rials during the 1984-85 period to about 15 billion rials, the collection of which is impossible.

Also, in this bill, we have no budget for developmental work and the balance between the developmental and current budgets is improper. In my opinion, one of the tasks the agricultural sector can undertake is to leave the hands of the nation free in keeping the natural resources. In this regard, no projections have been made. The subsidies are mostly allocated to urban uses, the payment of which will not cure any problem in the society. It would be appropriate to eliminate some of them from being a burden on the nation and to give them to a productive sector, such as agriculture.

Spokesman of Economic and Finance Committee

Mohammad Khaza'i, the spokesman of the economic committee and representative of the people of Rasht, enumerated the strong and weak points of the budget as follows:

This budget is not ideal, but if we take the existing resources into consideration, we can have a positive view about the budget. In any case, a large figure in the budget has been allocated to the war, while such issues as current expenditures and the problem of employee salaries are in question. On the other hand, we have problems in connection with the sale and export of oil, which would reduce the revenue sources of the budget. This problem has caused the revenue figures of the budget to be unrealistic, and in order to make up for the budget deficit, revenue increases are shown in any form possible. For instance, the businesses paid 22 billion rials in taxes last year, whereas in the present budget, the figure for business taxes has been projected at 150 billion rials, which shows that this figure is unrealistic. According to the views of experts of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the maximum taxes that can be collected from businesses reaches 30 billion rials. Naturally, if the budget is based on unrealistic figures, tomorrow it will face difficulties. And, naturally, plans that take place on the basis of such figures will not be completed and will increase the burden on expenditures. Another weak point in the budget is that the general spirit of the budget has not been devised appropriate to the programs of a revolutionary country. For example, we do not see a balance between business and employee tax revenues. Although it is said that this tax figure will be collected from businesses, our existing organizations would not afford us this opportunity.

Lack of coordination between the implementary capability and planning is one of the problems that we see in this budget.

Member of the Commerce Committee

Engineer Mohammad Mo'ezzoddin (Mo'ezzi), a member of the commerce committee and the representative of the people of Esfahan in the Majlis, said in response to our question.

The 1985-86 budget is the point of contact between the programs prior to and since the revolution.

The figures in this budget do not express the slogans of the revolution. Under the circumstances of ending the fifth year of the war, the center of the economic programs, that is agriculture, which has been stressed frequently by the revered imam and religious jurist, has not been paid attention to. Organizations are allocated budgets, but it has not been clarified what amount of is to support agriculture.

This budget does not properly sever dependence on currency, so that the budget of 149,240,500 rials in the roads section is significant compared to the 76,093,000 rials of the agricultural budget. Also, the section on electricity, with 13,603,000 rials compared to 78,920,300 rials in the section on water resources shows a turn towards industry rather than agriculture. An examination of the whole budget is not possible in this brief opportunity, but it would be appropriate for me to point out the positive points of the 1985-86 budget.

(1) An increase in current expenditures has been prevented.
(2) Efforts have been made to allocate funds to every organization on the basis of the ability of that organization in order to prevent improper budgetary expenditures. (3) Priority has been given to incomplete projects. (4) With Note 60, the executive organizations of the government are freed of exhausted forces. It is hoped that the executive organizations will avoid new hiring as much as possible so that while they attend to the financial situation of the remaining employees, the bureaucracy resulting from the inflation of forces will also be reduced.

Vice Chairman of Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

Dr Mohammad Reza Rahchamani, the vice chairman of the health and environmental affairs committee, enumerated the strong and weak points of next year's budget as follows:

(1) In the 1985-86 budget bill, tax revenues have been increased compared to the previous years. During the 1983-84 and 1984-85 periods, tax revenues were about 25-26 percent of the general revenues of the government; but in the 1985-86 budget bill, this figure is about 31 percent of the total revenues of the government.

(2) The projection of revenue gains in new ways, such as revenues obtained from fines on lands that have been taken over illegally, revenues from costs to issue agreements in principle and operational licenses, the collection of travel taxes from air passengers, and so on, show a move on the part of the budget towards a reduction in dependence on single-product oil revenues.

The third strong point in the 1985-86 budget can be considered its anti-inflationary nature and the reduction in loans from the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran compared to the previous year.

The fourth strong point in the 1985-86 budget can be considered its attention to the high level of income of and payment to one of the oppressed strata of the society, that is, the honorable brother and sister employees and salaried persons.

The fifth strong point of the 1985-86 budget is its attention to and value of the universities and institutions of higher education and technical and trade training and research institutions.

The sixth strong point in the 1985-86 budget is its movement towards changing the administrative and organizational system and the reduction in the general expenditures of the government, which is apparent in Note 60 of the 1985-86 budget bill.

The seventh strong point of the budget is its attention to the procurement of the agricultural machinery and equipment needed by our beloved villagers and also the revitalization of barren lands and increased cultivation by allocating funds in this connection to the Reconstruction Crusade and the seven-member land revitalization and distribution committees.

The eighth strong point of the 1985-86 budget is making the people participate in the affairs and the implementation of some developmental projects and plans.

The ninth strong point of the budget is its attention to the treatment of illnesses by allocating funds for the implementation of the health and treatment network expansion project in the rural areas of the country.

The 10th strong point of the 1985-86 budget is its allocation and commitment of funds for the implementation of incomplete developmental projects, which can be completed by the end of the winter of 1987.

Then, concerning the weak points of the budget, he said:

The first weak point of the 1985-86 budget is that it is not part of a plan. Essentially, a budget must be devised for one year of a plan. Now, the plan might be a long-term, medium-term, or short-term one. But, unfortunately, the 1985-86 budget and essentially all the budgets since the revolution have not followed a plan. It has not been decided exactly what positive or negative results they have had. The second weak point of the 1985-86 budget is the high level of current funds for executive organizations, which, unfortunately, grow every year and involve a major portion of the total budget, that is, 65-70 percent of it.

The third weak point of the 1985-86 budget is the low level of developmental funds of the executive organizations, which, unfortunately, have had a negative growth every year.

The fourth weak point of the 1985-86 budget is the high level of funds in the section on public and social affairs, which mostly involve administration and services. In contrast, the funds for the section on fundamental and economic affairs, which are productive, such as agriculture, industries, and mines, are low.

The fifth weak point of the 1985-86 budget is the use of an important part of the budget in the urban areas, particularly in large cities, so that the rural areas, which include about 45 percent of the total population of the country, are allocated a lesser share.

The sixth weak point of the 1985-86 budget is the allocation of a significant amount of subsidies on some consumer goods.

The seventh weak point of the 1985-86 budget is the reduction in the developmental funds and health and treatment service programs in the rural areas compared to the 1984-85 period.

The eighth weak point of the 1985-86 budget is the allocation of funds to one program in the various executive organizations, which will result in a lack of congruity in affairs.

Member of Energy Committee

Engineer 'Abdolreza Hashemza'i, the representative of the people of Ferdows and Tabas in the Majlis and a member of the energy committee, enumerated the strong points of next year's budget bill as follows.

(1) Making general policies; (2) attention to the issue of inflation; (3) attention to productive employment; (4) the preservation and continuation of production, which, if it succeeds, will be interesting; (5) attention to the issue of collecting taxes in order to increase non-petroleum revenues;

and, (6) of course, there are more minor items which can be mentioned as strong points in the 1985-86 budget.

However, the weak points are: (1) Overlapping in the administrative and organizational affairs of the executive system of the country (Note 66, etc.).

(3) [as published] The high level of the current budget compared to the developmental budget.

(4) Restrictions on research.

(5) Lack of special attention to the training of manpower in various areas.

Vice Chairman of the Labor Committee

Arsalan Safa'i, the vice chairman of the committee on labor and social affairs, presented his summation and assessment of next year's budget as follows:

On the whole, the 1985-86 budget is based on the budgets of the previous years, and the most important weak points consist of the reliance on oil, borrowing from the banking system, and spending more than half of the revenues on current affairs.

However, the efforts of the authorities to solve the problems are visible when the budget is compared to the budgets of the previous years. While the deficit of revenues compared to payments during the 1983-84 period was 1,072.2 billion rials and during the 1984-85 period it was 514.7, this deficit will be reduced to 394 billion rials during the 1985-86 period. Also, borrowings from the banking system, which were 695.3 billion rials during the 1983-84 period and 364.7 billion rials during the 1984-85 period, have been reduced to 298 billion rials during the 1985-86 period. One of the clear points of this budget is the growth of tax revenues by about 25 percent compared to the previous year. In other words, during the 1984-85 period, tax revenues were 873.1 billion rials, which have reached 1,063.6 billion rials during the 1985-86 period.

Of course, in the evaluation of the budget bill, the statistics and figures included the political, economic and cultural conditions of the country; the foreign and oppressive currents opposing the revolution; the economic embargo; the problems and chaos left behind by the previous regime and its colonialist effects and factors, which resist in hidden and open form any sort of reform; and the legal and political obstacles which oppose changes and reforms that are necessary to strengthen the budget and conform various conflicting views must be taken into consideration before judgment is passed. Considering all the above-mentioned issues, the efforts of the authorities and their self-sacrifice must be praised.

IRAN

PRESIDENT WANTS PUBLIC TO BE INFORMED WHENEVER POSSIBLE

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 26 Feb 85 p 2

[Text] Political service of KEYHAN.
Yesterday, the officials of the public relations offices of the capital along with Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad Khatami, the minister of Islamic Guidance, met with Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

In this visit, first the minister of Islamic guidance presented a report on the work of this seminar to the president and then the president offered directives to the officials of the public relations offices of the capital.

First, referring to the importance of such seminars in eliminating problems, the president said: In our regime, we need real unity, which must be created in any way possible. One of the ways is to ensure that public relations do not differ from one ministry to another.

A good practice is to coordinate similar offices in various organizations, and the way to do it is through these seminars. The least benefit is that you gain from each other's experiences. Of course, concerning the public relations offices themselves, I feel that the brothers who are engaged in this work are aware of the status of and the responsibility for this work. In this regard, I do not see any deficiencies, especially now that during these days you have met with the authorities of the country and the viewpoints on what is expected of the public relations offices have been clarified and stated. Hence, the public relations offices know what their job is and what they must do.

The president then said concerning the transfer of news to the people and differences in taste.

Some people believe that we must tell the people the truth in connection with what we are doing. We are for the people and the people have expectations of us. If we work in a ministry, we

must inform the people of what goes on in that ministry. Some others believe that the people should not be informed about everything, that they should only be told of hopeful issues and not disappointing ones or ones which would cause despair. The public relations offices must decide between these different tastes considering the principles governing the Islamic Republic.

The president added: I myself, of course, have an opinion. You determine in your seminar what the people expect of your organizations. I say that the people should be treated truthfully; we must not deceive them. The most important distinguishing quality of the regime of the Islamic Republic, at least in the area of organizations, is that the people consider the officials a part of them and do not expect us to tell them anything contrary to the facts. They would like us to speak to them truthfully. On the other hand, it is not necessary to inform the people of all the issues and facts. Do not be afraid of this side of the issue; it is by no means contrary to being truthful to the people.

In other words, in choosing between these two lines, what is direct and correct, what we say must be truthful and must be devoid of exaggeration or the intention of placating the people. In other words, the first principle is to act truthfully and the second principle is not to inform the people of the whole truth, but only that part which would not frighten them and would not make the enemy aware of our secrets and facts.

This is the part that we should tell the people. Once I was responding to questions in a gathering of a great number of people. I was asked: Why do you not tell all the facts to the people in certain instances? I said: Our relationship with the people is very good and we trust the people much more than they trust us. But what can I do when there are a few among you dear people who come here, listen to us and then go and inform the enemy? That gathering accepted my simple, familiar language. This is the right way to do it. We do not need to tell all the facts about what goes on in an organization under the slogan of truthfulness.

The president added: The greatest of errors is for those who come from various organizations to engage in speaking about the weaknesses of those organizations, saying that they have done all they could and one thing or another will happen at such and such a time. If they want to give an ultimatum, they must first speak to their superiors, the prime minister, the president or the Majlis rather than going and frightening the people. We do not by any means consider such action as a sign of being truthful to the people.

Referring to the early days of the war and Bani-Sadr's action, the president said: Early in the war, one night there was a discussion at the joint headquarters concerning the war. Bani-Sadr insisted that all the slaughter and destruction by Iraq must be told to the people. We hesitated because it would have caused fear in the people. We asked the imam. He said that any news which would cause anxiety for the people should absolutely not be told.

The president added: Our public relations office had prepared a bulletin which showed what the officials of the country had promised the people, because sometimes the mere telling of the news becomes a promise. And sometimes explicit promises were made. When I looked through those pages, I felt ashamed for having given so many promises, but after the passage of several months, nothing had come of those promises. Now, in simple language, we might be praising our work in words that suggest a promise. Then you must be careful to use truthful language in expressing the facts.

Concerning the relationship of the people with the organizations and the existence of a channel through which they can speak to the officials, the president said: We established an office for contact with the people to which people write letters, call on the telephone, or come in person. This office will inform us of the people's views. Those which can be followed up are investigated. In my opinion, we must be decisive about continually keeping the people's loudspeaker to us on, whether it is in the public relations offices or other places. The place is not important. What I insist on is that we must always listen. If we do not, we will miss many things which are important in decision making. Of course, the great fault since early in the revolution was that no matter what we were confronted with, we went to extremes to tell the people about the problems. In other words, at one time, we kept so silent that the people would not know at all that happened. At present, most people do not know what has happened since the revolution.

Expressing his disappointment regarding some artistic programs, the president referred to a television program about a person who comes out of a coma after two years and said: Some of the artistic programs which are presented at the present imprint on the minds of the people the idea that they do not know what has happened since the revolution. So much of the work which has been accomplished in the villages, so many revolutionary institutions that have been created, the presence of the people on the scene in this country, which did not exist before, the fact that decisions are not made for the people, the long lines to the ballot boxes to participate in the elections, the person in a coma did not see any of it, but he did see that the people have to purchase some items with coupons. This is somewhat the

consequence of not telling the people. Not only the people, but we, as well, are at times unaware of what has been accomplished since the revolution. Some time ago, Mr Khatami presented statistics on books, which were new to me. I did not know that this number of books existed. And sometimes in expressing the issues and propaganda, we have gone to such extremes to criticize ourselves that, in my opinion, it has become counter-propaganda. The counter-propaganda that exists now, in my opinion, is not at times less harmful than bad propaganda.

The issues are presented badly in the press and on radio and television. Sometimes, the form of the news is not good. It is repetitive and lacks a fundamental subject. Some time ago, I saw a report on television from a province and I thought that this could have been done by the counterrevolutionaries. In other words, it was totally counter-propaganda. There was nothing to show that the Islamic Republic is trying to improve the condition of the people. You must impose controls and find a way between these two extreme lines. Neither should it be overtold with an exaggerated tone, which would become similar to counter-propaganda, nor should there be silence or restrictions.

Referring to the waste in some organizations in publishing and expanding magazines, the president said: It is not necessary to publish so many publications and papers at a time when we have so many shortages. The Majlis has prohibited it and cut the budget for it, so that you will not suffer shortages and will be able to continue to do your work, but, unfortunately, we see that it still exists.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i stressed the role of public relations offices in connection with cooperation and unity with the executives and other organizations in which they work.

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CSO: 4640/434

IRAN

FOREIGN MINISTER REVEALS FUTURE GAS PIPELINE PROJECT TO ITALY

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 2 Mar 85 p 2

/Text/ Rome--IRNA: At the end of a four-day trip to Italy, Mr Kazempur Ardabili, deputy foreign minister in economic and international affairs of our Foreign Ministry answered the question put to him by the correspondents in a press conference Friday night.

Mr Ardabili who was in Italy as the head of an economic and political delegation since last Tuesday, at the above-mentioned press conference while pointing to the economic relations between the two countries also enumerated the execution of some developmental, industrial and production projects such as the Martyr Raja'i's wharf in Bandar 'Abbas, the Mobarakeh's Steelworks Project of Esfahan, several power stations and power transmission projects, and some of the activities of major Italian companies in Iran.

In this respect, Mr Kazempur mentioned as one of the future cooperation projects between the two countries the Iranian gas pipeline project which will carry gas to Turkey, Greece and continue on to Italy and from there to some other European countries.

He added: "This pipeline will cover a distance of 4,000 kilometers passing through the port of Iskenderun in Turkey and going on to the Mediterranean Sea /first to Greece and then to southern Italy/. On the basis of preliminary studies the cost for the construction of this gas pipeline will be about \$10 billion. This pipeline will make it possible to transport more than 50 billion cubic meters of gas to the consumer market of Europe. In this regard, the cooperation of some of the Italian companies with the Islamic Republic of Iran will be duly investigated.

"Similarly, some other proposals by Italian auto manufacturers such as Fiat for the production of Fiat model 131 minibuses and road building and construction machinery are under consideration by the economic officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran so that if they are found suitable, a new chapter in the economic cooperation of the two countries will be opened." Thereafter, he gave some explanation on the situation of the imposed war and the recent report by

the UN delegation and said: "On many occasions we have announced that under no circumstances did we have any interest in starting the war--the transgression of the Iraqi regime took place at a time when our people were busy reconstructing our country." Furthermore, Mr Ardabili pointed to the unrealistic regulations of various resolutions of the United Nations Security Council on Iran from the beginning of the imposed war until now, the violation of 1925 and 1949 agreements by the Iraqi regime, the complete disregard by the Iraqi regime of the request by the UN secretary general regarding stopping the bombardment of Iranian residential areas, the use of chemical weapons, which has been unilaterally approved by Iran and similar issues, which are but some of the reasons for the inhumane actions of the Zionist regime of Iraq in the future."

In answer to the question: How do you assess the support of the press and the mass media of the West for the hypocrite organization which calls itself the progressive left, Kazempur said: "If such terrorist groups as the Red Brigade, Baader-Meinhof and other similar terrorist groups in Europe or the counterrevolutionaries of Nicaragua can be called progressive left, this hypocrite organization can as well be called progressive left. One should ask oneself how it is possible to be progressive left and have the support of the most genuine rightist senators of the United States?"

"This terrorist organization is accountable for the murder of many responsible government officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and they are also accountable for the death of thousands of innocent people of our country. They have no human support or sympathy in our country."

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CSO: 4640/493

IRAN

PROGRAMS OF COUNCILS ON ISLAMIC TRAINING ANNOUNCED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 11 Mar 85 p 22

/Text/ The method of forming the High Council on Islamic Training and the mode of organizing the centers of instruction and training in the provinces, recruitment and continuation of the studies of training affairs' instructors was announced at a press conference by the deputy training director of the Ministry of Education and Training.

First, regarding the number and variety of teacher training courses for training affairs' instructors, Seyyed Ahmad Zarhani, the deputy training director of the Ministry of Education and Training stated: "Nearly 22,000 training instructors are engaged in the field of instructing and training of students. More or less, all the instructors have completed a teachers' training course or a short course of instruction. Furthermore, a large number of these instructors have passed a course on preliminary information on Islamic training issues."

Formation of the Islamic Training Council

He went on to add: "Since each individual has varied capabilities, the matter of training is of utmost importance and we have no right to handle such a significant subject perfunctorily. The Ministry of Education and Training with due regard to this matter gives priority to the subject of training and is trying to transform the nation's training system through re-training and re-educating teachers and instructors.

"At the present time, in order to begin this fundamental movement a High Council on Islamic Training has been formed in the Ministry of Education and Training. A number of responsible representatives of the Consultative Assembly, who are expert on the subject, two respectable members of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution, several university professors, some pertinent deputies of the Ministry of Education and Training and responsible training instructors of this ministry are also involved."

Moreover, Zarhani added: "Until now this council has had two meetings where the most important training issues related to the students were investigated. Work on the pertinent issues will continue. One of the most important axis of

activities of this council is the study and investigation of the mode of transformation of Islamic cultural values and its adoption in educational institutions/in reality, the enactment of new programs toward islamization training of the students/. Although, after the victory of the Islamic revolution, some changes have taken place in our system of education; yet, they are far from being a unified or harmoniously coordinated transformation. Furthermore, some of the programs which have been put into operation have had their share of confusion and chaos. We hope, with the assistance of the experts on Islamic education and training, that we will be able to take effective steps in this regard.

"The second program for study by this council is the issue of misdemeanor and moral corruption at various age levels as far as students are concerned. After the victory of the Islamic revolution the enemies of the revolution, in order to undermine the moral and ethical values of our people, particularly our youth, started a calculated encounter with our system. Therefore, with the help and assistance of responsible officials, the Ministry of Education and Training is duty bound to begin a serious war against the invasion of foreign culture into our educational system. Right now we are at the threshold of such a movement. We hope that under the guidance and protection of our cultural centers, our intellectuals, scientists and our mass media we will be able to take some effective steps toward this goal.

"The third program for study by this council is the accumulation of scientific, psychological, and pedagogical data which deals with the solution of psychological disorders pertaining to the adolescents or the tumultuous period before attaining puberty. We have already started some studies on the subject, and God willing, the center, which has been created in coordination with the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution, will be able to study the nature of the misdemeanors. Thereafter, in order to have a better understanding and interaction with the students and their proper guidance and also for a better interplay with those students who are afflicted with certain derangement or turmoil, all the necessary instructions on the fundamental principles of pedagogy and psychophysics will be compiled in the format of a guide book so that with the use of these principles, our instructors will have a better chance of counseling the students." Moreover, he said: "The above-stated measures have all been brought on the carpet at the seminar of training deputies and all the deputies have had favorable opinions on them."

In continuation of this interview the deputy training director of the Ministry of Education and Training stated: "Centers for counseling, teaching and training will be formed in all the provinces throughout the country. In each province, the nucleus of teaching and training will be composed of learned and

educated men /individuals who have a degree in psychophysical field/, and the clerics familiar with pedagogical issues. Furthermore, these centers will be educationally nourished by the experts in the Supreme Council of Islamic Culture through the Ministry of Education and Training. The most important task of the teaching and training centers in the provinces will be the continual contact between the teachers and the students and the behavioral studies on the students."

In this regard, Zarhani also added: "The result of these studies will be investigated in Tehran and according to relevant observations, necessary instructions will be conveyed to the teaching and training centers in the provinces. Thus, we will be able to utilize an effective mechanism for the discovery and the eradication of misdemeanors and disorderly behavior of the students."

Training and Continuation of Studies of Teachers

As regards the training of teachers Zarhani stated: "The Ministry of Education and Training is planning to instruct and familiarize teachers with their proper duties. This process of training makes it possible for the teachers to increase their knowledge, to secure their sense of perfection and guarantee the stability of their profession."

Further, regarding the most important aspect of the teachers' duty he said: "The most important tasks of our teachers are the transfer of the contents or the substance of Islamic teachings, protection of the healthy political atmosphere of the schools, developing artistic talents and tastes of the students in various fields, execution of extracurricular activities, encouraging participation and use of libraries by the students, counseling and the performance of special ceremonies at the schools." Then he said: "The knowledge and the perceptability which should be acquired by our teachers have all been properly included in the contents of the textbooks which are going to be used by the teachers after high school graduation."

As regards the continuation of the studies of training instructors, the deputy training director of the Ministry of Education and Training stated: "Next year between 500 to 1000 individuals will be selected from among the teachers in training after they pass an oral and a written examination; they then will take the required courses toward completing their training. Those individuals who began their career without taking any teacher training courses will have to attend summer classes for four years in special centers in order to prepare them in their training career. In addition, they will have to take some correspondence and some semi-attendance courses during this four year period. After the completion of these courses, they will be conferred with a diploma with the privileges which pertain to a degree between a high school diploma and a bachelor's degree. However, those individuals who have passed their training courses will

be able to use part of their training toward the required number of credits. Thus, these people will have to go through a shorter period of training. We are planning to accept more students for these training courses in the future, if circumstances should allow--and classes for instructor training will be formed both in Tehran and some other provinces."

He went on to add: "We admit that this is quite a new experience and we will face certain difficulties from the viewpoint of a lack of adequate or sufficient teaching space, textbooks and instructors. Since a transformation in the matter of training calls for the enhancement of perceptability and knowledge of the instructors in charge of training, we therefore have no other choice except to carry out this task as soon as possible. After a certain period of time we will be able, to an acceptable extent, to familiarize our would-be teachers with Islamic instructions, teachings, training and psychological sciences peculiar to a certain age group and other pedagogical issues which concerns Islam." He also said: "In action we have observed that the teachers ought to receive continuous training necessary to carry out their tasks. To this end, there will be some changes in the program of training of the instructors. The training department of the Planning and Programming Office for Education and Training have proposed some programs for this purpose which after proper investigation will be duly announced."

In conclusion, regarding the employment of training instructors he stated: "The status of 10,000 of the present training instructors, who work on the basis of a contract, will be changed to permanent civil servants. Likewise, we have begun to change the status of the remaining training instructors. It should be noted here that in yesterday's issue of KEYHAN, instead of ten thousand training instructors they were referred to as contractual teachers."

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CSO: 4640/492

IRAN

LITERACY MOVEMENT TO HIRE 10,000 INSTRUCTION ASSISTANTS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 11 Mar 85 p 22

/Text/ In the first session of the seminar of the literacy movement, Seyyed Ali Akbar Parvaresh, deputy president of the Human Resources Department of the Literacy Movement in a statement explained his viewpoint regarding the method of selecting new members to serve the movement. While pointing to the fact that in his opinion in Islam we don't have the phenomena of attraction or repulsion but only justice and equity he said: "In the selection process the quality of tender-heartedness or sentimentality should not prevail since pity or tenderness is a lethal poison when used improperly. Instead in the selection process there should be forgiveness or compassion and not sympathy." In another part of his speech while mentioning that the person in charge of selection must be guided by enlightenment, he gave some examples in this regard and pointed out that it is only possible to reach such a stage of enlightenment or edification by staying up and saying midnight prayers."

In continuation of yesterday morning's session Hojjat ol-Eslam Dari Najafabadi, a representative in the Islamic Consultative Assembly and a member of the High Selection Council while indicating the worthy position of the Literacy Movement, which is charged with the grave responsibility of serving the deprived and fighting the dangerous disease called ignorance, he stressed the issue of selection in an Islamic system and stated: "There is no doubt that the selection process is one of the holiest refiners in our Islamic society which ought to be given due attention. In reality, if we had paid more attention to this matter from the very beginning, we would have received fewer blows from our domestic enemies."

He went on to add: "We must follow Islamic laws through and through and give due consideration to the precepts and precedents and know what to value most."

In conclusion, he said: "An exemplary and genuine follower of the Islamic precepts was the Imam Ali /peace be upon him/ and we ought to follow him as a model in our adherence to the standards of judgment or criterions."

According to the report this session was adjourned yesterday afternoon after a speech by Hojjat ol-Eslam Moqtada'i, spokesman of the Supreme Judicial Council. In one section of his speech while pointing to the changes which have taken place

in every walk of life, particularly in the judicial affairs after the revolution, he acknowledged that the enactment and enforcement of such laws as the Law of Retaliation is one of the blessings of Islam.

Furthermore, in another part of his speech as regards the order of the imam of the nation concerning the realization of Islamic ideals for the purpose of the propagation of literacy throughout the land and the formation of the literacy movement he stated: "As one of the objectives of the revolution, the leader of the revolution has set us the goal of teaching illiterates how to read and write; therefore, there is a heavy burden on the shoulders of this movement."

As regards the criterion for the selection of new members for the literacy movement he said: "Those brothers of ours who are in charge of selecting new members must put themselves in the shoes of the new members and apply only those standards of judgment which are solely Islamic in every aspect. In the process of selection you ought not to forget God and never let an illegal or religiously unlawful act interfere with your decisions."

In a conversation with our correspondent, Ali Vatani, the supervisor of the selection committee of the literacy movement announced: "Next year, during the latter part of the month of Ordibehesht /21 April - 21 May 1985/ the literacy movement will begin to hire more than ten thousand individuals as instruction assistants. This figure is somewhat higher than the number of individuals who were hired in 1363 /21 March 1984 - 20 March 1985/."

Moreover, while indicating that those individuals who are hired by the literacy movement, when drafted to serve in the army will serve as instruction assistants in order to teach the army's illiterates how to read and write and said: "Any individual who has served one full year in the literacy movement can add that period to his record of service in any governmental organization that he chooses to work." He asked the young people who have not yet been called up to serve in the army to take advantage of this opportunity and seek employment with the literacy movement.

In conclusion, he announced that according to the new resolutions individuals who have served the literacy movement for five years will become eligible to become official employees of the Ministry of Education and Training thereafter.

IRAN

HOME APPLIANCE OUTPUT VOLUME PUBLICIZED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 16 Feb 85 p 7

[Text] Until recently the Electrical and Home Appliances Industries Group was made up of 50 production and service companies. Twelve companies named in a Majlis bill appointing their directors have recently been added to this group. The management staff center for these companies is located at the National Industries Organization, which is a part of one of nine specialist groups. After the Iran Industrial Preservation and Expansion Law was enacted by the Majlis and almost 500 large and mid-sized production and service companies were released from the clutches of capitalists affiliated with the former regime and professional money-makers, the Iran National Industries Organization was established on the basis of its legal charter and assumed the task of managing and expanding these industries. The extreme diversity and great volume of the supervisory jurisdiction and responsibilities which have been assigned to the organization have made it necessary that its staff organization be codified in a completely scientific and specialized form. Nine specialized industrial groups were designated, each one administering a relatively extensive group of companies. In a short time the Iran National Industries Organization became one of the world's most outstanding industrial organizations of its kind, taking on the task of producing 90 percent of the country's domestic production. The organization's system for grouping industries makes it possible for affiliated industrial and service units to be classified in a non-centralized way on the basis of the type of industrial technology and product. More than 2,000 committed and specialist directors have been drawn into the organization, and have taken on the management of the industrial and service units as members of boards of directors. Most of the industries were ailing and completely drained, owing the banks much more than they themselves were worth. The mass of committed directors took on the task as a new experience in order to prevent the diversion and interruption of the course of industry, and to gradually redirect the course of fabricating, dependent industries in line with the industrial strategy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The economic embargo, the war, the shortage of currency, the shortage of specializations, the shortage of skilled manpower, worker unrest, overlapping responsibilities, unspecified industrial direction, and tens of other factors caused the young management to be beset with difficulties. The tone of the movement was maintained, however, even when the level of dependence for these industries on foreign sources for parts and raw materials is even now more than 80 percent. The electrical and household appliances group, which produces more than 85 percent of the goods in that category, depends on foreign sources for more than 50 percent of its parts and raw materials. In this long and difficult confrontation, a guiding principle which pervades the entire Islamic revolution and which illuminates the horizon of the future is that the young Muslim managers of these industries have advanced the tasks of a comprehensive assault on the imposed patterns of dependent industry and the reconstruction of industry's shattered legacy as a mission carried out according to the methods of Islamic management. They have not done this on the basis of materialistic motivations, but as simple

wage earners working with discipline and limited means. The organization has become a great university for training managers, and it nourishes within itself the capital of the best inventive and inquisitive ideas of creative forces.

In the near future this human capital will undoubtedly give the final answer to the imperialist system, which relies on the dominant industries of the world. The continuation of this course of action revolves around the establishment of basic industrial policies and making proper use of manpower. The electrical and home appliance industries group, whose specialist boards of directors are composed of around 250 directors chosen by the organization, employs more than 25,000 committed and wholehearted workers. In the year 1362 [21 March 1983 – 20 March 1984] these creative and capable hands brought about a 43 percent increase in production, but the quality of production did not remain at the same level. Heavy demand, especially for domestic products, along with a lack of domestic and unwanted foreign competition causes a decline in comprehensive attention to quality control. Despite this, industrial officials apply the maximum pressure possible in order to maintain the desirability of merchandise, in order to preserve the efficiency and soundness of this portion of industry in times when demand diminishes and competition increases. While this sector is still awaiting the results of the government's investments in basic and strategic industries, was able in the year 1362 [21 March 1983 – 20 March 1984] to produce more than 700 of the different parts and machines that it needs in its own factories through the implementation of self-sufficiency planning. This resulted in a savings in the year 1362 [21 March 1983 – 20 March 1984] of around 1.5 billion rials in foreign exchange. Despite all this, there are still obstacles, including lack of cooperation, lack of awareness of domestic resources, the lack of continuous access to information on the world's latest technological advancements, the lack of cooperation on policies having to do with imports, the low level of quality of domestic products due to the pressure of demand and other factors, the severe scattering of technical specialists and experts, a shortage of needed information and statistics, and the lack of sufficient information on domestic industrial resources.

The work of implementing expansion projects also faces obstacles, most of which arise from the lack of proper industrial policies and directions, and shortages having to do with investment, especially with regard to companies covered by Article J. Despite all this, around 60 different projects are being implemented for the modernization of projects and construction and for starting up new production lines. Some of them, including the mini-wash basket production project, the washing machine production project, and the Fish Bakh electric motor project have been completed.

Commercial

Internal preparations in the companies in the year 1362 [21 March 1983 – 20 March 1984] for the purpose of preparing domestic resources were more active, but even so, because of severe dependence for parts and materials, more than 220 million dollars in foreign exchange were used by 35 companies in the group. The group's foreign exchange consumption decreased around 16 percent in the year 1362 [21 March 1983 – 20 March 1984] compared to the previous year. The value of parts ordered in the fiscal year 1362 was 23 million dollars, or 10 percent of all the foreign exchange used by the companies in the group.

Production

The electrical and home appliance industries group produces about 72 kinds of goods needed on domestic markets (not including the products of the 12 production companies recently added to the group). About 90 percent of of this group's production shows an increase over the year 1361 [21

March 1982 - 20 March 1983]. Only a few products have shown a decrease, including gas stoves, cable, crock pots, and radiators. In the year 1361 [21 March 1982 - 20 March 1983], growth in production was 16 percent; it reached 43 percent in 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984], and it will be even higher in 1363 [21 March 1984 - 20 March 1985]. Other production factors which have shown an improvement include the availability of sufficient raw materials, reduced worker unrest, market demand, stabilization of management, the timely procurement of needed molds and parts, the strengthening of industrial engineering units and planning, the attraction of skilled and experienced manpower, increases in the level of experience and efficiency of the management of companies and their maximum utilization, domestic resources, and the industrial units. On the other hand, the rapid depreciation of machinery, dependence for molds, machinery, and raw materials, shortages of foreign exchange, financial difficulties and cash flow problems, the necessity of buying from specific sources, failure to look at the future, the lack of clarity in industrial policy, as well as other inhibiting changes also damage production. The directions taken by planners at the high levels of industry are also sometimes such that the replacement of machinery is not possible, which basically impedes and slows down the task of achieving self-sufficiency. In several cases haphazard importation, such as the importation of items like dry batteries, has also caused stagnation and reduced production in this industrial sector.

The allocation of foreign exchange in 1363 [21 March 1984 - 20 March 1985] was handled in such a way that it did not answer the needs of companies for foreign exchange. It appears that the reduction of foreign exchange for companies in this group was the result of an increase in the foreign exchange allocated to basic and intermediate industries, but it was actually due to the problems of the war and so forth. We hope that with the earliest possible victory by the dear combatants and the victory of the Truth over the Vain, these problems will also be solved.

The proper attainment of basic successes will show that the level of dependence in the consumer goods sector has not increased, and that an accumulation of companies of this type without support from basic industries will not ultimately lead to intensified dependence and stagnation for this industrial group, especially after a period of saturation of consumer goods in the domestic market. For example, all stagnation to date has affected certain companies, especially the cable manufacturing companies. The reduction of demand for low-voltage electrical cable has drawn the cable manufacturing industry into an acute state of stagnation due to the stoppage of some development projects and the imbalance between supply and demand because of the excessive increase in the domestic production of low-voltage cable. If this group of industries does not move ahead with the cable export plans it is now implementing, stagnation and reductions in production will inevitably spread. It is hoped that the pertinent officials will solve these problems with the cooperation and assistance of the cable-manufacturing factories.

At the same time, in 1363 [21 March 1984 - 20 March 1985] the electrical and home appliances industrial group show increasing growth. Statistical reports show that most of the stoppages and impediments to production in that year were primarily due to power failures. Other factors inhibiting the growth of production include mechanical and mold failures, and shortages of raw materials. This is a sign of danger, and attempts must be made to find an immediate solution.

The electrical and home appliances industries group recently analyzed the accomplishments of its companies in a 300-page report it sent to industrial insiders. In the report's introduction, reference was made to the trend to dependence in industry, and some of the deeds and tricks of the dependent leaders under the previous regime were recounted. Several parts of the report were devoted to comparisons between the year 1356 [21 March 1977 - 20 March 1978] and the accomplishments in the years after the revolution. The analysis of financial issues also occupied a

relatively large part of the report. The financial report stated that losses for companies in the group in 1359 [21 March 1980 - 20 March 1981] were more than 5.7 billion rials, and in the year 1360 [21 March 1981 - 20 March 1982] this figure was reduced to 3.3 billion dollars. This loss turned to a profit in 1361 [21 March 1982 - 20 March 1983]. The net profits of the company, including the large bank profits, reached 1.8 billion rials in 1361 [21 March 1982 - 20 March 1983] and 5.4 billion rials in 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984], while bank profits for each of the two years were 3.8 billion rials.

Sales for the companies increased by 22 percent in 1361 [21 March 1982 - 20 March 1983]. Sales for the fiscal year 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984] reached 72,500 million rials, arising from increased production. In the year 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984] the price of products from companies in the group not only did not increase, but in some cases, such as color television, they decreased.

The real increase in wages for companies in the group as of the month of Azar 1363 [22 Nov - 21 Dec 1984] compared to the month of Esfand 1356 [20 Feb - 20 March 1977] is 149 percent. Despite this, employee salaries and wages are not yet sufficient to meet their material needs. In this phase of the Islamic revolution efforts are being made based on the love of God, and sacrifice and unstinting effort are strong. The 96 esteemed martyrs from the group's companies are proof of these efforts.

Name of Companies in the Electrical and Home Appliance Industries Group

1 -- Saveh Cable; 2 -- Iran Cable Manufacturing; 3 -- Gharb Wire and Cable; 4 -- Iko Iran; 5 -- Bakhter Cable; 6 -- Payesh; 7 -- Azar Electric; 8 -- Iran Electric of Rasht; 9 -- Alborz Electric Industries; 10 -- Pars Flashlight Batteries; 11 -- Pars-Shahab Bulbs; 12 -- Peyam Radio and Television; 13 -- Pars Electric; 14 -- Iran Radio and Television; 15 -- Electric Products; 16 -- Arj; 17 -- Azmayesh Industrial; 18 -- General Industrial; 19 -- Ardal Home Appliances; 20 -- Afarin Flame Industries; 21 -- Movalled Home Appliances; 22 -- Lord Production and Industry; 23 -- Pars-Khazar Industrial; 24 -- Neptune Home Appliances; 25 -- Pars Home Appliances; 26 -- Iran Cylinder; 27 -- Pars Machine; 28 -- Calorie Industrial; 29 -- Iran Cooling Industries; 30 -- Sara Ventilation Industries; 31 -- Hava Afarin; 32 -- Qods-Khorasan Steel Radiator; 33 -- Iran Torch Manufacturing; 34 -- Chilan Production; 35 -- Mehdi Musa Bahar; 36 -- Movelled-e Sarma; 37 -- Iran Blade Production; 38 -- Kaveh Industrial; 39 -- Iran Carbon Motors; 40 -- Iran Brake Shoes; 41 -- Prefabricated Houses; 42 -- Iran Elevators and Escalators; 43 -- Jam Daru; 44 -- Ardal Capital Investment; 45 -- Pars-Tusheh Capital Investment; 46 -- Ardal Traders; 47 -- Pars-Shid Traders; 48 -- Pars-Nik; 49 -- Sava-Luxe Commerce; 50 -- Zimens Private Corporation; 51 -- Iran Dumak; 52 -- Iran Gas; 53 -- Cable Industries Services; 54 -- Pars Services; 55 -- Lord Electronics; 56 -- Charpant; 57 -- Cable Distribution; 58 -- Cablist (Kabkan); 59 -- Alborz Commerce; 60 -- Alborz Battery Marketing; 61 -- Home Appliance Service and Services; 62 -- Hadko (Experimental Industries).

Comparative Table of Chief Products
Electrical and Home Appliances Group

Rank	Product Name	Measurement	1356 [21 March 1977 - 20 March 1978]	1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984]	First Six Months 1363 [21 March 1984 - 20 March 1985]
1	Color televisions	Units	44,663	62,876	42,404
2	Black and white televisions	Units	26,305	71,414	58,652
3	Portable black and white televi- sions	Units	103,241	215,128	125,579
4	Radios	Units	102,936	86,553	67,080
5	Vacuum cleaners	Units	—	54,685	42,000
6	Refrigerators and freezers	Units	179,445	295,927	227,172
7	Washing machines	Units	10,258	5,102	9,874
8	Coolers (Room AC)	Units	159,375	283,649	237,279
9	Heaters	Units	308,673	291,532	141,000
10	Water heaters	Units	115,807	168,824	109,609
11	Gas stoves	Units	105,199	105,653	63,000
12	Gas cylinders	Units	381,364	388,278	299,200
13	Table fans	Units	312,627	433,111	342,343
14	Meat grinder	Units	97,731	67,021	67,444
15	Juicers	Units	75,661	69,154	65,684
16	Rice cookers	Units	162,614	132,508	95,882
17	Various cables	Tons of copper used	15,973	23,122	9,742
18	Blades	Millions	299	273	189
19	Switches and sockets	Thousands	39,910	43,000	28,000
20	Penlight batteries	Thousands	45,500	47,317	34,991
21	Medium batteries	Thousands	38,800	35,812	6,968
22	Large batteries	Thousands	70,900	113,087	61,019
23	Incandescent lights	Thousands	22,100	28,663	18,972
24	Candelabra bulbs	Thousands	2,500	1,802	1,602
25	Flourescent lights	Thousands	3,713	6,422	4,060
26	Wall clocks	Units	116,562	145,140	123,437
27	Fireproof safes	Units	10,654	16,465	13,855
29	[sic] Automatic sweeper	Units	237,045	348,629	243,798

Rank	Product Name	Measurement	1356[21 March 1977 20 March 1978]	1362[21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984]	First Six Months 1363 [21 March 1984 - 20 March 1985]
30	Slow cookers	Units	26,870	21,037	22,000
31	Broilers	Units	124,403	84,990	50,000
32	Coil mechanisms	Units	36,935	31,720	18,196
33	Package	Units	221	125	75
34	Ventilators	Units	286	421	288
35	Cooling towers	Units	952	152	129
36	Unit heaters	Units	431	1,537	946
37	Condensers	Units	45	110	50
38	Chillers	Units	675	208	135
39	Steel radiators	Square meters			
		heating surface	--	76,091	47,072
40	Mini-wash	Units	--	--	18,067

Note: Some of the above items, such as chillers, cooling towers, coil mechanisms, package, and ventilators were not needed in some buildings, which have not flourished because they do not conform to our culture and customs. Their production has decreased, and priorities have led to reduced production of other products.

9310

CSO: 4640/410

IRAN

NUMBER OF ADDICTS SAID DECREASING

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 11 Mar 85 p 18

/Text/ In a special interview with the KEYHAN correspondent, Dr Hoseyn Fakhr, president of the Supreme Medical Council and the director of the Narcotics Department of the Ministry of Health and Welfare answered questions regarding the addiction situation in our country, the future plans of this headquarters and the reasons why the rehabilitated addicts go back to their addiction.

First, in response to the question by the KEYHAN correspondent regarding the increase in the number of addicts, which according to the report of one of the nation's newspapers, has increased four-fold, he said: "On the basis of available evidence and statistics not only has there been no increase in the number of addicts, on the contrary, there has been a decrease in their number since during the former regime when there was no restriction on the cultivation of opium, in addition to an amount of 400 tons of opium which was locally produced, an equivalent amount of opium also found its way into our country from Pakistan and Afghanistan. On the other hand, according to the statistics, the number of addicts until 1358 /21 March 1979 - 20 March 1980/, the year when we had the highest number of addicts, was 800,000."

He also said: "At the present time, opium is not cultivated in Iran under any circumstances or for any reasons at all. Likewise, the production of opium in Pakistan most probably has decreased. In Afghanistan, most certainly the amount of opium production has decreased in comparison to their past production level."

"On the other hand, anti-smuggling campaigns by our disciplinary agents have been so extensive that for a long time now there has not been any report of a large haul. It seems either there is not enough opium to go around in large hauls or there has been a sharp drop. Our disciplinary police along the borders once in a while uncover and seize small packages containing a few kilograms of opium which are carried by motorcyclists." He went on to add: "Domestic smugglers who are involved in smuggling opium use either unsuspecting individuals for transporting opium or devise other tricks, such as using hidden compartments under the upholstery of the car. However, with the untiring efforts of our disciplinary agents this kind of smuggling is either next to impossible or is carried out on a very limited scale. Compared to the year 1358, all the evidence point to a sharp drop in the consumption of opium."

Furthermore, Dr Fakhr stated: "About 30 tons of smuggled opium is seized in a one year period which is equivalent to one-tenths of the available opium throughout the country. Of course, as a result of our geographical location, part of the opium also finds its way out of the country."

He also added: "The rumor of an increase in the number of addicts throughout the country is either circulated by our friends who cannot accept even a small number of addicts and consider it as something below the dignity of the Islamic Republic or it is circulated by foreigners in order to despair our people."

The supervisor of the Narcotics Department of the Ministry of Health also said: "The availability of coupons and rationing of narcotics for the addicts only served as a permit to transport opium or set up a joint to attract opium smokers--while at present, no such contributing countermeasures exist any more. Additionally, through instructions and training given by the pertinent and responsible officials, contrary to the former regime's propaganda, the abominable and disgusting nature of addiction has now been revealed to the general public."

The supervisor of the Narcotics Department of the Ministry of Health went on to add: "Of course, what we say here does not indicate our satisfaction as regards the severity of addiction in Iran, since despite being a medical issue, the problem of addiction is being used as a political blow by our enemies. As far as we are interested in resolving the issue of addiction in our society, the political invading agents work as hard if not harder to spread and expand the addiction throughout our nation."

In continuation of his remarks regarding the rumor of distributing opium coupons among the addicts by officials, Dr Fakhr stated: "According to accepted medical evidence and on the basis of the decree by the imam /Khomeyni/ there is no reason to justify continuing an addiction; therefore, distributing rations among the addicts amounts to putting our seal of approval on their addiction. Only in special cases will the use of narcotics be prescribed by physicians, which allows those specific individuals to continue their addiction." As regards future plans and programs of the Narcotics Department of the Ministry of Health, Dr Fakhr said: "The plan which was proposed by the Headquarters for the Coordination of Antiaddiction Campaign is a two-stage plan. The first stage dealt with the deadline for the addicts to throw off their habit and ended in the month of Azar 1359 /22 November - 21 December 1980/ and the second stage deals with the offense or the matter of culpability which is still in force."

Further, he stated: "Generally, the anti-addiction campaign is carried out in three stages: The first stage deals with the matter of smuggling, the second stage deals with the propagation of relevant information and instructions to

make the general public aware of the dangers of addiction and the third stage deals with the rehabilitation of the addicts."

As regards the reasons for the relapse of the rehabilitated addicts he said: "In principle, seeking a cure or a remedy for addiction or even rehabilitation of addicts throughout the world has not been very successful. The only way to prevent or stop the affliction of addiction is to stop the free flow of narcotics throughout the nation."

12719
CSO 4640/491

END